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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 153 | SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you plan to attend any of the sessions in the ongoing 26th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference at the Saipan World Resort?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of June 26, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Disbelief
People reacted in stunned disbelief as word spread that Michael Jackson had collapsed and died.
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Digital Obit
Michael Jackson's death was not learned from a TV news anchor. Instead, the news spread online.
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Police probe death of girl, 2

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police are investigating the death of a 2-year-old girl who allegedly insisted with her parents to give her apple juice despite her allergy.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jason T. Tarkong said yesterday the case is still under investigation and that the child's name is being withheld pending further developments.

Tarkong said that police responded to the Commonwealth

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Election body needs $150K for Nov. election

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

With barely four months to the general election, the Commonwealth Election Commission has yet to have the money to conduct the activity, according to executive director Robert A. Guerrero.

He said the commission needs funding of about $150,000 to pay for the logistics and preparations for the gubernatorial election slated in November this year.

Guerrero said the commission must have the money by August when it starts the public education campaign for the initiatives that will be included in the polls.

The election official said they

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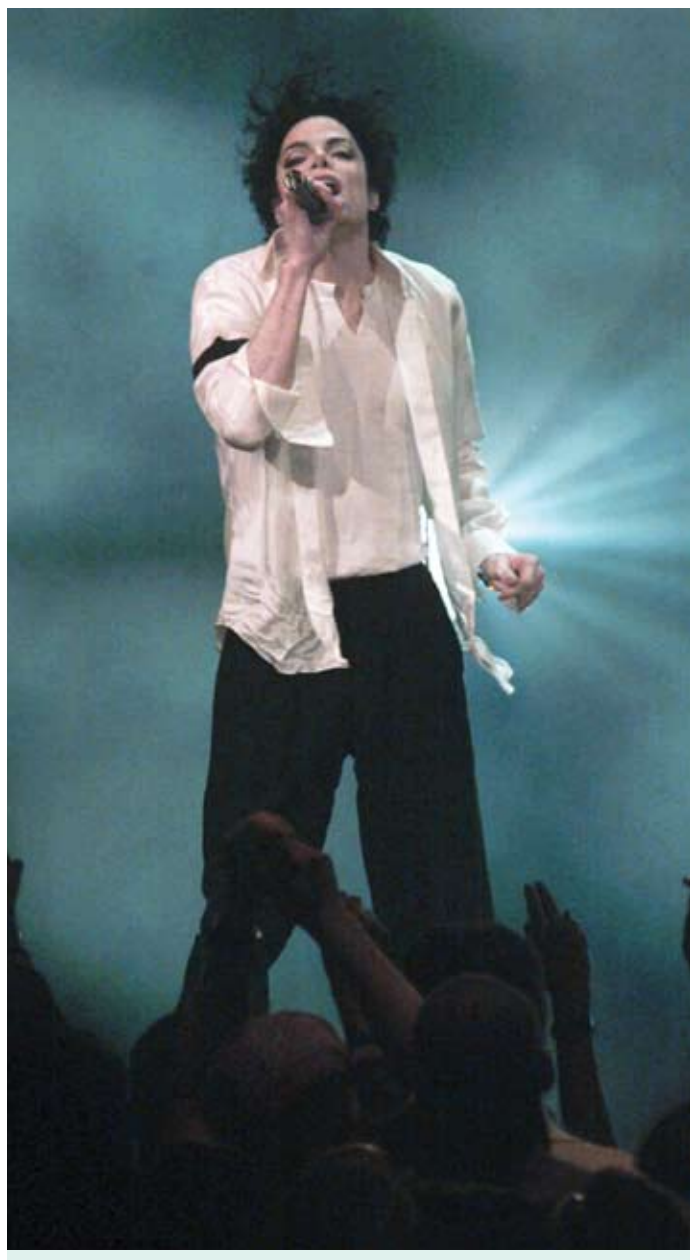

AP

In this Thursday, Sept. 7, 1995 file picture, Michael Jackson performs during the 1995 MTV Video Music Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Autopsy set after Michael Jackson's sudden death

By LYNN ELBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson, defined in equal parts as the world's greatest entertainer and perhaps its most enigmatic figure, was about to attempt one of the greatest comebacks of all time. Then his life was cut shockingly—and so far, mysteriously—short.

The 50-year-old musical superstar died Thursday, just as he was preparing for what would be a series of 50 concerts starting July 13 at London's famed 02 arena. Jackson had been spending hours and hours toiling with a team of dancers for a performance he and his fans hoped would re-

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Top 3 NMI killers: alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Officials from the Community Guidance Center headed by director Josephine T. Sablan, third from left, front row, along with representatives from various agencies including Commerce, Customs, Public Health, and Public School System, pose at the conclusion of the 2009 CNMI-SEOW orientation/ presentation Friday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A hefty 87 percent of CNMI deaths recorded from 2003 to 2005 are the consequences of consuming alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs, according to the recently updated 2008 Epidemiological Profile.

The profile was distributed by the Commonwealth Guidance Center to participants of yesterday's 2009 CNMI State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup orientation and presentation at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

The report said that, in the three-year period alone, consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug were associated with the top underlying causes of deaths, traffic accidents, injuries and criminal behavior in the CNMI.

Heart disease was listed as the top underlying cause of deaths, followed by cancer, accidents, stroke, sepsis, renal disease, pneumonia, respiratory and liver failure.

See TOP 3 on Page 4

Local

Longer processing at customs due to down system

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The electronic system at the Division of Customs Service has been down for at least three weeks now, resulting in longer processing of customs documents.

"We are using a manual collection, reporting and inputting because the electronic customs system is down. It takes longer to process documents but it's fixable," Customs director Jesus C. Muna said yesterday.

Customs' downed computer system was brought up on June 10 when the House Ways and Means Committee held a June 10 hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget of the Department of Finance. Customs is one of the divisions under Finance. In that hearing, Customs was asked about the amount of receivable, to which the director said they could not pull out the latest figure due to a downed computer system.

As of yesterday, the system has yet to be fixed. But Muna said two programmers from India will be arriving next week to fix the system.

"Hopefully, by the end of next week, we will be able to have that back online. It's beyond our ability to get it fixed sooner," he added.

Customs began using the new electronic system in April.

Among other things, Customs assesses excise taxes on incoming goods, conducts inspections of containers and packages at the seaport, airport and post office, and runs the K9 facility or the drug-detector dog training facility.

Reyes pre-files bill exempting low wage earners from income tax

Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan) has pre-filed a bill seeking to exempt from paying personal income tax those earning $25,000 or less annually, saying that reducing taxes is one of the most effective means of helping the economy recover.

"When applied properly, tax cuts have stimulated the economy," Reyes said.

House Bill 16-250 exempts those who earn $25,000 or less from paying income tax, while imposing a 6 percent income tax on those earning between $25,001 and $50,000 annually.

Those who earn between $50,001 and $100,000 will be taxed an 8 percent income tax, while those earning over $10,001 annually will have an income tax of 10 percent.

"Amending the income tax brackets will result in revenue loss being collected from the low wage earning individuals, but will be offset by the income tax collected from the higher wage earning individuals," Reyes said in his bill.

He said the funds not paid in income taxes because of the proposal would nevertheless be spent in the local economy and result in economic growth for the CNMI.

"It is therefore the purpose of this Act to amend the income tax brackets to stimulate economic activity and growth within the Commonwealth," said Reyes, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Red flag up at seven Saipan beaches

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on seven sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Hafa adai Drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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INSTEAD OF KILILI'S HR 934

Senator pushes for 902 talks on submerged lands

Fitial admin: 902 negotiations have not yielded positive results

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo (D-Saipan) is pushing for direct talks between the CNMI and the White House on the issue of submerged lands instead of going through Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan's bill, which the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources recently voted to send to the full U.S. House for approval.

He said Sablan's H.R. 934, if passed, "will give no breathing room for any further discussion of the submerged land."

"For this reason, I respectfully seek an opportunity for a 902 Covenant negotiation between the CNMI government and the federal government," Crisostimo said in a statement yesterday.

He has also offered a Senate resolution calling for 902 talks on the submerged lands issue.

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the U.S. allows for periodic consultations between the Commonwealth and federal governments "on all matters affecting the relationship between them."

But the Fitial administration is not keen on 902 talks.

"Given our past experiences, we do not have much confidence in the 902 process. Historically, the 902 process has not yielded any meaningful or substantial results," press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. told Saipan Tribune yesterday.

While the 902 process makes for good rhetoric, he said it does not produce results.

"The CNMI has little or no bargaining power with the federal government through the 902 process. We tried it with the issue of federalization and achieved nothing. We communicated our grave economic concerns and the 902 representative at the time, David Cohen, nodded and listened politely, and gave us nothing," Reyes added.

The press secretary also said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) "are working together to address H.R. 934" with Sablan.

They had a teleconference on Thursday where they talked about the submerged lands issue, among other things. On Thursday,

Crisostimo

Fitial said the teleconference also talked about the mistreatment of CNMI travelers at the Guam international airport.

Crisostimo, who expressed "grave concern" on H.R. 934, also wants to suspend any action on H.R. 934 until the CNMI government is granted additional opportunity to work with the committee on concerns about submerged lands.

H.R. 934, the first legislation introduced by Sablan in the U.S. Congress, conveys to the CNMI the submerged lands surrounding each of the Northern Mariana Islands out to 3 miles from the coastline.

If passed into law, the bill will give the CNMI the same benefits from its submerged lands as Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa have.

Crisostimo, in his resolution, said the CNMI must request that any conveyance of submerged lands by the U.S. should legally convey "all right, title and interest" without any reservations, exceptions, or caveats.

The senator's resolution also seeks to secure an amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, to give the CNMI full rights to all fees, royalties and enforcement penalties for pelagic fish harvested within the CNMI's 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

He said he is not entirely opposed to H.R. 934 but wants the U.S. government to expressly agree to undertake and/or finance the environmental cleanup of any and all contaminants and unexploded World War II ordnance.

Crisostimo said prior to and as a precondition of the passage of H.R. 934, the U.S. Department of Defense must undertake and complete the cleanup of toxic substances it has caused the CNMI, including the live fire training exercises on Farallon de Mendinilla.

FDM is the only U.S.-controlled live air-to-ground range in the Western Pacific.

Lastly, Crisostimo seeks a study and report by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, as well as an independent entity, on the potential socio-economic impact of H.R. 934 on the CNMI.

In 2005, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the CNMI does not own the submerged lands. The ruling angered many people in the Northern Marianas, who believed the court was wrong.

Ex-STUCO president leaves NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The former president of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, Ivan Mereb, will leave the institution for good after deciding not to enroll and stop his studies at the college this fall semester.

Mereb moved back to his hometown of Rota this week where he plans to stay with his family.

This fall, he intends to either enroll at the University of Guam or take up online courses for a communications degree.

Mereb said his decision to leave NMC is a result of only factor—the college failed to keep its "Students First" mission.

"As former student body president, I choose not to go to NMC because I believe the institution has dropped the ball in its mission for students first," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mereb served as ASNMC president for two years since 2007. His term was supposed to expire this July but he was asked to step down on May 23.

Another student leader, Lena Wabol, was also asked to vacate her post for failing to maintain the "required" GPA under the ASNMC Constitution.

Mereb said his experience at NMC was "unexpected."

It was in March when Mereb, at the advice of the Student Council Grievance Committee, filed a complaint against the college management for "harassment" when NMC staff entered his office and packed all his things in a box.

"That issue, to date, has never been answered or investigated by the college. There was no explanation as to why it happened," Mereb said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mereb, in consultation with his advisers, withdrew his grievance in April to give way to accreditation concerns.

"Yes, I pulled out my grievance a month later because we want the accreditation issues to be addressed first so we can move on…but I was surprised when the president met with me and my advisers, asking for my resignation despite that pullout," he said.

Mereb said the meeting happened on May 20, about 10am.

In that meeting, Mereb said the president raised some issues about the ASNMC Constitution relating to the GPA requirement for student leaders and their removal.

When asked if someone asked him or manipulated him to file the grievance, Mereb said: "Nobody manipulated me or used me at the college. That was my decision."

Mereb said he was also saddened by reports of successive resignations at the college, particularly the long-time dean of Academic and Students Services, Dr. Debra Cabrera, and director of office of institutional effectiveness Wil Castro.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from NMC but there was no reply to the e-mail message as of press time.

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AUTOPSY

From Page 1

store his tarnished legacy to its proper place in pop.

An autopsy was planned for Friday, though results were not likely to be final until toxicology tests could be completed, a process that takes several days and sometimes weeks. Police said they were investigating, standard procedure in high-profile cases.

Jackson died at UCLA Medical Center after being stricken at his rented home in the posh Los Angeles neighborhood of Holmby Hills. Paramedics tried to resuscitate him at his home for nearly three-quarters of an hour, then rushed him to the hospital, where doctors continued to work on him.

"It is believed he suffered cardiac arrest in his home. However, the cause of his death is unknown until results of the autopsy are known," his brother Jermaine said.

Cardiac arrest is an abnormal heart rhythm that stops the heart from pumping blood to the body. It can occur after a heart attack or be caused by other heart problems.

Jackson's death brought a tragic end to a long, bizarre, sometimes farcical decline from his peak in the 1980s, when he was popular music's premier all-around performer, a uniter of black and white music who shattered the race barrier on MTV, dominated the charts and dazzled even more on stage.

His 1982 album "Thriller"—which included the blockbuster hits "Beat It," ''Billie Jean" and "Thriller"—is the best-selling album of all time, with an estimated 50 million copies sold worldwide.

As word of his death spread, MTV switched its programming to play videos from Jackson's heyday. Radio stations began playing marathons of his hits. Hundreds of people gathered outside the hospital. In New York's Times Square, a low groan went up in the crowd when a screen flashed that Jackson had died, and people began relaying the news to friends by cell phone.

"No joke. King of Pop is no more. Wow," Michael Harris, 36, of New York City, read from a text message a friend had sent him. "It's like when Kennedy was assassinated. I will always remember being in Times Square when Michael Jackson died."

The public first knew him as a boy in the late 1960s, when he was the precocious, spinning lead singer of the Jackson 5, the singing group he formed with his four older brothers out of Gary, Ind. Among their No. 1 hits were "I Want You Back," ''ABC" and "I'll Be There."

He was perhaps the most exciting performer of his generation, known for his backward-gliding moonwalk, his feverish, crotch-grabbing dance moves and his high-pitched singing, punctuated with squeals and titters. His single sequined glove, tight, military-style jacket and aviator sunglasses were trademarks, as was his ever-changing, surgically altered appearance.

"For Michael to be taken away from us so suddenly at such a young age, I just don't have the words," said Quincy Jones, who produced "Thriller." ''He was the consummate entertainer and his contributions and legacy will be felt upon the world forever. I've lost my little brother today, and part of my soul has gone with him."

Jackson ranked alongside Elvis Presley and the Beatles as the biggest pop sensations of all time. He united two of music's biggest names when he was briefly married to Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie. Jackson's sudden death immediately evoked comparisons to that of Presley himself, who died at age 42 in 1977.

"I am so very sad and confused with every emotion possible," Lisa Marie Presley said in a statement. "I am heartbroken for his children who I know were everything to him and for his family. This is such a massive loss on so many levels, words fail me."

As years went by, Jackson became an increasingly freakish figure—a middle-aged man-child weirdly out of touch with grown-up life. His skin became lighter, his nose narrower, and he spoke in a breathy, girlish voice. He often wore a germ mask while traveling, kept a pet chimpanzee named Bubbles as one of his closest companions and surrounded himself with children at his Neverland ranch, a storybook playland filled with toys, rides and animals. The tabloids dubbed him "Wacko Jacko."

"It seemed to me that his internal essence was at war with the norms of the world. It's as if he was trying to defy gravity," said Michael Levine, a Hollywood publicist who represented Jackson in the early 1990s. He called Jackson a "disciple of P.T. Barnum" and said the star appeared fragile at the time but was "much more cunning and shrewd about the industry than anyone knew."

Jackson caused a furor in 2002 when he playfully dangled his infant son, Prince Michael II, over a hotel balcony in Berlin while a throng of fans watched from below.

In 2005, he was cleared of charges that he molested a 13-year-old cancer survivor at Neverland in 2003. He had been accused of plying the boy with alcohol and groping him, and of engaging in strange and inappropriate behavior with other children.

The case followed years of rumors about Jackson and young boys. In a TV documentary, he acknowledged sharing his bed with children, a practice he described as sweet and not at all sexual.

Despite the acquittal, the lurid allegations that came out in court took a fearsome toll on his career and image, and he fell into serious financial trouble.

Michael Joseph Jackson was born Aug. 29, 1958, in Gary. He was 4 years old when he began singing with his brothers—Marlon, Jermaine, Jackie and Tito—in the Jackson 5. After his early success with bubblegum soul, he struck out on his own, generating innovative, explosive, unstoppable music.

The album "Thriller" alone mixed the dark, serpentine bass and drums and synthesizer approach of "Billie Jean," the grinding Eddie Van Halen guitar solo on "Beat It," and the hiccups and falsettos on "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'."

The peak may have come in 1983, when Motown celebrated its 25th anniversary with an all-star televised concert and Jackson moonwalked off with the show, joining his brothers for a medley of old hits and then leaving them behind with a pointing, crouching, high-kicking, splay-footed, crotch-grabbing run through "Billie Jean."

The audience stood and roared. Jackson raised his fist.

During production of a 1984 Pepsi commercial, Jackson's scalp sustains burns when an explosion sets his hair on fire.

He had strong follow-up albums with 1987's "Bad" and 1991's "Dangerous," but his career began to collapse in 1993 after he was accused of molesting a boy who often stayed at his home. The singer denied any wrongdoing, reached a settlement with the boy's family, reported to be $20 million, and criminal charges were never filed.

Jackson's expressed anger over the allegations on the 1995 album "HIStory," which sold more than 2.4 million copies, but by then, the popularity of Jackson's music was clearly waning even as public fascination with his increasingly erratic behavior was growing.

Jackson married Lisa Marie Presley in 1994, and they divorced in 1996. Later that year, Jackson married Deborah Rowe, a former nurse for his dermatologist. They had two children together: Michael Joseph Jackson Jr., known as Prince Michael, now 12; and Paris Michael Katherine Jackson, 11. Rowe filed for divorce in 1999.

Jackson also had a third child, Prince Michael II. Now 7, Jackson said the boy nicknamed Blanket as a baby was his biological child born from a surrogate mother.

Billboard magazine editorial director Bill Werde said Jackson's star power was unmatched. "The world just lost the biggest pop star in history, no matter how you cut it," Werde said. "He's literally the king of pop."

Jackson's 13 No. 1 one hits on the Billboard charts put him behind only Presley, the Beatles and Mariah Carey, Werde said.

"He was on the eve of potentially redeeming his career a little bit," he said. "People might have started to think of him again in a different light."

Fans worldwide mourn Michael Jackson

By TANALEE SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SYDNEY (AP)—The news stunned nearly everyone, from the young man in Colombia who was named after the King of Pop, to Malaysians who named a soy drink for him, to a generation of people around the world who have tried to moonwalk.

Michael Jackson's death Thursday in California prompted broadcasters from Sydney to Seoul—where the news came early Friday—to interrupt morning programs, while fans remembered a "tortured genius" whose squeals and sliding moves captivated a generation and who sparked global trends in music, dance and fashion.

Even world leaders weighed in. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez called it "lamentable news," though he criticized the media for giving it so much attention. Former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who had met Jackson, said: "We lost a hero of the world."

Within minutes of Jackson's arrival by ambulance at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, people began arriving by the hundreds outside. As word spread that he was dead, people burst into tears. Others stood in disbelief.

At Times Square in New York, the crowd groaned as the news of his death flashed across a giant TV screen.

"My heart is heavy because my idol died," said Byron Garcia, security consultant at a Philippine prison who organized the famous video of 1,500 inmates synchronized dancing to "Thriller." The video has had 23.4 million hits on YouTube.

Garcia said the inmates in Cebu will hold a tribute for Jackson on Saturday with their "Thriller" dance and a minute of prayer.

In Bogota, Colombia, a 24-year-old tattoo artist named Michael Tarquino said his parents named him after Jackson. He recalled growing up with electricity rationing for hours at a time and waiting for the power to return.

"When the light came back on I would play my Michael Jackson LP, and I'd stand at the window and sing along," he said.

Japanese fans were always among Jackson's most passionate supporters, and news of his death came as a huge shock. Michiko Suzuki, a music critic who met Jackson several times in the 1980s, said the country was likely to be mourning for some time.

TOP 3

From Page 1

During the same period, an average of 8,707 offenses each year—or one in five—was alcohol-related. Injuries and accidents related to alcohol and illicit drugs also increased during the same period—from 1.58 percent in 2005 to 3 percent in 2007 for injuries and from 5 percent to 9 percent for accidents.

However, the report observed a decline in crime and mortality rates during the same period, with the exception of property crimes, which remained stable.

Criminal and traffic offenses due to alcohol and illegal drugs came in at 9,723 in 2005, but this went down to 8,914 in 2006 and further down to 7,489 in 2007.

The report also showed that during academic year 2006-2007, about 64 percent of the 536 suspensions and infractions in public schools were due to betel nut chewing, followed by tobacco (22 percent), drug/marijuana use (13 percent) and alcohol use (3 percent).

The Department of Public Safety reported 92 percent of juveniles arrested were under the influence of alcohol.

David Maratita of the Alcohol, Beverage and Tobacco Control Division said prevention should start from home.

He noticed that during graduation parties, children are allowed to drink alcohol in the presence of their parents. He said family involvement must be given importance because children learn what is practiced at home.

The division is set to propose changes to the law to increase the fines, penalties, and taxes related to the sale of alcohol and tobacco in the CNMI.

Based on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in the CNMI from 2001-2007, there has been to small increase in tobacco use among middle school students, from 3.6 percent in 2001 to 3.7 in 2007.

ELECTION

From Page 1

are currently working with the Legislature and the Fitial administration on identifying funds for the activity.

Because of the passage of the Public Law 16-38, which requires the commission to do a preliminary count for each senatorial district, Guerrero said the agency needs to hire more people for the task.

Besides the $150,000 needed for the general election, Guerrero said the commission also needs separate funds for the public education campaign.

Based on previous records, Guerrero said the commission spent some $15,000 to $20,000 to conducts public education drives for each initiative.

So far, the commission has yet to know how many initiatives will be included in the ballots, he said.

"If we have like three initiatives, we will need separate funding of about $45,000 for public information," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

When asked how many people the commission will employ for this election, Guerrero said this will depend on the amount provided by the Legislature.

The CNMI Constitution dictates the submission of initiatives by Aug. 10 and public information must follow at once.

The commission, he said, is looking at producing over 15,000 ballots for the election.

As of this month, CEC posted nearly 14,000 registered voters, two months to the registration deadline on Sept. 18.

The official said its Saturday registration activity at Price Costco has been getting a pretty good turnout each week.

He said CEC is expecting a runoff this election.

In the last four days, Guerrero's staff was busy attending to new registrants as a result of the primary election set by the local GOP today.

The teams of Juan Babauta-Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Heinz Hofschneider-Arnold Palacios will face off in the primary poll today to determine the party's standard-bearer.

Guerrero said CEC will not take part in the primary.

POLICE

From Page 1

Health Center Thursday morning after receiving a report of a dead person.

Tarkong said a CHC doctor pronounced the girl dead at 9:32am on that day.

He said police learned through interviews that the child was allergic to apple juice.

The night before, the girl wanted to drink apple juice but her parents refused to give it to her because of her allergy to the drink. The child threw a temper tantrum. She was later given a little bit of the juice.

The next morning, the parents were awakened when the girl began to cough and wanting to vomit. Her condition worsened and she had difficulty breathing.

As the parents were on their way to the hospital, the girl stopped breathing. The parents stopped by the DPS Fire Station on Capital Hill for help. DPS fire personnel tried to resuscitate the child.

An ambulance then transported the girl to CHC's emergency room at 8:50am.

DUE TO UNSTABLE WORLD ECONOMY, SWINE FLU, FEDERALIZATION:

MVA says CNMI tourism remains uncertain

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The future direction of the Commonwealth's tourism industry has become more uncertain in recent months due to the impact of an unstable world economy, coupled with unclear guidelines on federalization.

Marianas Visitors Authority officials shared this during Thursday's bi-annual general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, saying the situation may worsen if action is not be taken at this time.

MVA board vice chair Marian Pierce-Aldan, who was among the CNMI government's delegates to the congressional hearing on federalization in May, disclosed that CNMI concerns are still not being heard in Washington D.C. despite several requests, appeals, and testimonies from different parties expressing concerns on the implementation of Public Law 110-29.

Aldan said CNMI has to do more to get a positive response from the U.S. government on how it plans to take over the islands' labor and immigration systems.

MVA board chair Jerry Tan encouraged individual businesses and members to help send the message to the feds.

"Let them hear our concerns. We need to do something…and we must act now," Tan said, adding that the agency will provide assistance to all individuals who may want to individually or collectively express their concerns on federalization.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jason Chung, chief executive officer of Next Tour, talks about the challenges and opportunities in the Korean market in yesterday's general membership meeting of the Marianas Visitors Authority at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan. Another guest speaker at the meeting, Charles Duncan, managing director of Continental Airlines, shared the challenges and opportunities in the Japanese market, which is the CNMI's main tourist market.

Last December, Tan described the CNMI tourism situation as a big question mark. "It remains a big question mark…we have still a lot of uncertainties," he told the crowd Thursday.

A significant number of tourists from two major markets—China and Russia—will be affected once federalization comes in because these countries were excluded from the Guam-NMI Visa Waiver Program.

MVA said the two areas represent 11 percent of total arrivals and 18 percent of expenditures.

Aldan, quoting several testimonies presented to the U.S. Congress in May, described the exclusion of China and Russia as "reckless and irresponsible."

To date, the government's appeal to delay until 2010 the enforcement of federalization has yet to be approved or acted upon by the U.S. Congress.

Besides the unstable world economy, MVA officials cited the impact of the swine-flu scare that has resulted in the cancellations of flights from major destinations.

Other challenges

According to Jason Chung, chief executive officer of NexTour (Travelocity Company), Korea's major agents reported that the cancellation rate after the swine flu scare peaked in early May at about 10 percent.

He expects travel to recover this summer.

Besides the unstable world economy, Chung said other factors affecting travel are the volatile exchange rate, increased competition from other islands, and the U.S. visa waiver program implementation on Nov. 17. Chung said Korean travelers are worried about stricter immigration requirements due to federalization.

Chung said that Korea's economic growth is forecasted to be low in 2009 but is seen to recover by 3.7 percent in 2010. "We're already seeing the first signs of recovery, that Korea's economy will enter a solid recovery by the end of 2009," Chung said.

He said the Korean travel trade is anticipating an increase in overseas leisure traffic in the second half of 2009, as the Korean economy recovers, supported by the stabilization of the Korean won.

Woman gets 7 days for stealing Treasury check

The Superior Court has ordered a woman to spend seven days in prison for stealing a $213.50 check that belonged to the Tinian Municipal Treasury.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Lesly Ann SN. Macaranas to one year in prison, all suspended except for seven days.

Wiseman ordered the 33-year-old Macaranas to start serving her prison term at the Department of Corrections on July 6 at 8am. After completing her term, she will be placed on one year of probation.

The judge ordered Macaranas to pay $213.50 in restitution to the Tinian Municipal Treasury plus a $300 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and probation fee.

Wiseman required Macaranas to appear at the Tinian Superior Court on Oct. 9, 2009, for a review hearing to determine whether she has complied with all the terms and conditions of the suspended sentence.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Macaranas with forgery and theft.

The defendant signed a plea agreement with the government, pleading guilty to theft. The forgery charge was dismissed.

The case arose from a July 22, 2008, incident on Tinian, when Macaranas stole a check for $213 issued by the Tinian Municipal Treasury to pay Pacific Telecommunications Inc. Macaranas converted the money for her own use.

Macaranas' common-law husband, Donovan SN Borja, and another woman were also charged in connection with the case.

Last January, Borja pleaded guilty to theft. He was sentenced to five days in prison.

A Tinian detective stated in his report that Borja stole the check from the car of an employee of Tinian's Department of Commerce.

Borja then forged the check and handed it to Macaranas, who went to Kim's Market where she bought food worth $100 using the check.

Police said Borja admitted to another person that he stole another check in the amount of $213 from the Tinian Delegation Office last Feb. 26. Borja apparently forged the check and cashed it a Cha Cha Poker. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP09-GOV-114

"Saipan Geothermal Project"

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lietenant Governor Eloy S. Inos are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect scientific data to determine the availability/existence of geothermal energy on Saipan.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect extensive data will require the successful proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently deep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Office of the Director, Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, or upon request by email to **procurement@pticom.com**. Interested proposers may submit questions or inquiries regarding this RFP, by email only and **in pdf. format** no later than July 10, 2009, and addressed to **fmsablan@gmail.com**. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than July 14, 2009.

Sealed proposals must be submitted with one (1) original, five (5) hard copies, and one (1) digitized version to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at the date and time stated below. Proposals may also be submitted by email to **procurement@pticom.com**, no later than 10:00 a.m., July 20, 2009, and marked "RFP09-GOV-114 Saipan Geothermal Project".

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with CNMI Procurement Regulations Section NMIAC 70-30.3-210. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

A. Technical Factors

Qualifications of the Proposed Project Team	30%
Feasibility and Technical Soundness of the Drilling Plan	30%
Experience Doing Exploratory Drilling	20%
Ability to Begin the Project within a Short Time after Award	20%

B. Cost Factor

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of proposals. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase and the government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposer.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P & S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-027

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Wind Turbines for the W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings, Phase II, Navy Hill, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S, Inos through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting bids for the ***Supply, Delivery and Installation of Wind Turbines for W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings, Phase II, Navy Hill, Saipan,*** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

The project package will be available on or after June 26, 2009, at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00), is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulation, dated May 24, 2001. **Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and be submitted with the BID preference is claimed.**

There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference for this project on July 15, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. (local time) at the WIC Administration Building N-25. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on July 20, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr.**, Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Bldg. Office, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-027"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. (local time), on July 23, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. (local time), on July 23, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 23, 2009, and must be received no later than August 03, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejections of a bid.

Bids will be publictly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. (local time), on August 06, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. (local time), on July 28, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **(25,000.00)**, a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CBMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and annotation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Grant.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One hundred and Eight **(180)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DEIGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 153

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Michael—maybe we knew too much about ye

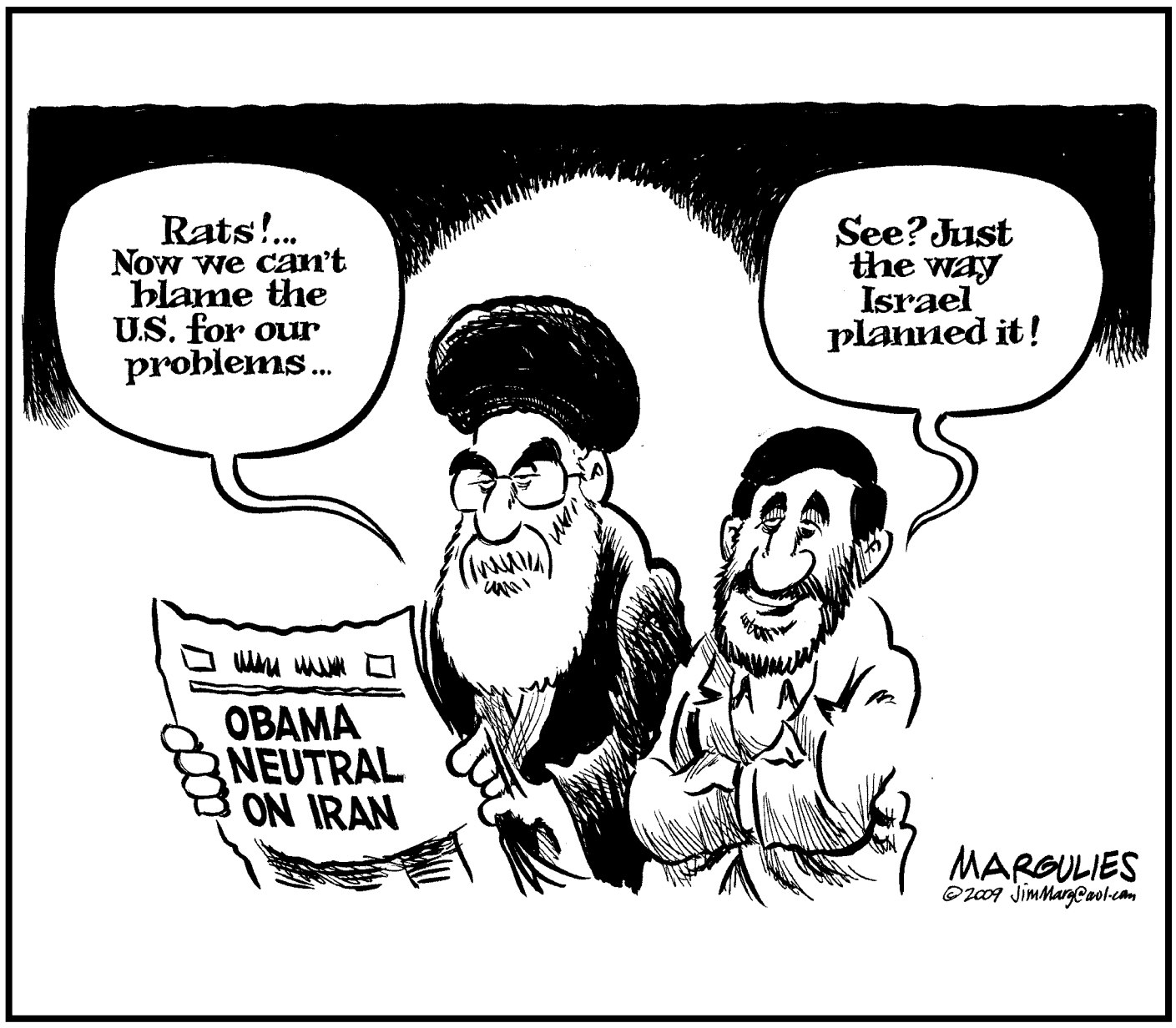
What felt the most shocking, as the first reports of Michael Jackson's death rolled out, was how expected the news was. Maybe not yesterday exactly, but if ever there were a Greek tragedy that seemed to be forming in the very first years of a man's life, this was it.

The adorable and preternaturally talented boy who could sing his heart out. The engaging cartoon that made the Jackson 5 a household presence Saturday mornings. The dancing skill that evoked praise from a marveling Fred Astaire.

Then came "Thriller." The album exploded on the music scene like a supernova, and the creepy/funky video changed the genre forever. But it also changed Jackson. He, too, burned white hot, and the flames revealed a dark side: the ambitious, and as Jackson described it, abusive father. The stunted childhood. The career so fully engulfed in glitz and money—and so removed from anything resembling normal life—that there was little opportunity for the singer to learn a few home truths: that we don't get everything the way we want, that we have to take responsibility, that sleeping in bed with young boys isn't OK, that dangling babies over balconies and draping their faces or breezing through expensive tchotchke shops pointing at the million-dollars' worth of goods we'll buy reflect an inability to reckon with what life is about.

We saw him dazzle with individuality and originality in "Thriller," then saw him wither away to the frail middle-age man who was dragged to court in his pajamas. Ultimately, there would be no comeback.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times


Rats!... Now we can't blame the U.S. for our problems...
See? Just the way Israel planned it!
OBAMA NEUTRAL ON IRAN
MARGULIES
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Twitter, a tyrant's nightmare

By TIM RUTTEN
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Twenty years ago, the world was transfixed by an image of courageous resistance—a lone young man standing in the road before a column of Chinese army tanks moving into Tiananmen Square to crush the students and others who'd gone there to demonstrate for reform.

Since Saturday, the global community has been similarly gripped by the tragic photos and video of Neda Agha-Soltan, the 26-year-old Iranian woman shot to death on the streets of Tehran while on her way to one of the protests over that country's disputed presidential election.

The most famous of the photos of the Chinese hero was taken by Associated Press photographer Jeff Widener. Other memorable images of the standoff were shot by photo journalists who were in Beijing working for Newsweek, Reuters and the Magnum photo agency. In Iran, by contrast, we still don't know who took the stills, video and audio recordings of the dying young woman, who has become known to tens of millions simply as "Neda," because the images and sound were collected on the cell phones of her fellow demonstrators and surreptitiously transmitted over the Internet to the rest of the world.

In those differing attributions, we can begin to see the future of foreign news reporting.

Two things of immense consequence have occurred since the 1989 massacre in Tiananmen Square: For economic reasons, far fewer Western journalists are dispatched to cover international crises, like the June 12 Iranian election; at the same time, millions of people around the world—and particularly in countries with large, well-educated young urban populations, like China and Iran—have joined the new media revolution. The Internet, social media networks such as Twitter and Facebook, and cell phones with the ability to text-message and to record and transmit images have become interwoven with their daily lives.

The Iranian resistance is the first popular movement to present itself to the world, in significant part, through new media. But while it's true that something new and unexpected is happening here, the process hasn't gone as either many traditional journalists or the Web's theoretical triumphalists ever foresaw.

As Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government and its thuggish clerical allies have choked off more and more of the Western media's access to events, thousands of Iranians armed with cell phones and social network connections have taken the reporters' and photographers' place. However, instead of the emergence of full-blown "citizen journalists"—the ideal of Internet enthusiasts—you've seen thousands of ordinary Iranians on the scene feeding information and images to other media, traditional and nontraditional, much in the manner of volunteer stringers.

Over the last week, a variety of Western bloggers and alternative media outlets—notably Andrew Sullivan's blog and Al Gore's Current TV—have sorted through and ordered the incredible volume of information. Traditional news organizations—most notably CNN and the BBC—have relied on lots of information from ordinary citizens and have been extremely transparent about how they've done so, sorting it out right in front of their viewers.

The hard work of verifying, analyzing and fleshing out the facts has been left to the journalists on the scene—notably New York Times columnist Roger Cohen and the Los Angeles Times' Borzou Daragahi, whose profile of Neda Agha-Soltan was a model of what only print journalism can provide.

This hybrid journalism—developed without plan and under the most intense pressure imaginable—is the best and most workable glimpse of the West's informational future we've yet seen.

Meanwhile, the mullahs and their buddies can throw out all the correspondents they want, but the facts keep flowing. This is bad news for authoritarian governments. In the future, they'll have to choose between underdevelopment—denying their people social media, cell phones and the Internet—and control. It's a little clearer now why the Chinese are demanding that all PCs and hand-helds sold in that country come with built-in censorship hardware. Lots of luck with that.

Tyranny's irreducible dilemma is that the Web is, in its chaotic essence, the product of an open society. You can't have its benefits without accepting the democratic baggage.

Somewhere, there's a mullah gnashing his teeth, just as his great-grandfather did in the 1920s after pointlessly denouncing Reza Shah's introduction of antiseptics as heretical corruption. Modernity's a bitch.

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Two lost icons: For Generation X, a really bad day

By TED ANTHONY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

A record-shattering vinyl album and its moonwalking maestro. A paper poster of a golden-haired beauty in a one-piece swimsuit that was gossamer and clingy in all the right places.

The man-child named Michael Jackson and the luminous girl known as Farrah Fawcett-Majors jumped into our consciousness at a plastic moment in American culture—a time when the celebrity juggernaut we know today was still in diapers. When they departed Thursday, just a few hours and a few miles (kilometers) apart, they left an entire generation—a very strange generation indeed—without two of its defining figures.

"These people were on our lunchboxes," said Gary Giovannetti, 38, a manager at HBO who grew up on Long Island awash in Farrah and MJ iconography. "This," he said, "is the moment when Generation X realizes they're grown up."

It was a long time coming. Cynical, disaffected, rife with Attention Deficit Disorder, lost between Boomers and millennials and sandwiched between Vietnam and the war on terror, Gen X has always been an oddity. It was the product of a transitional age when we were still putting people on celebrity pedestals but only starting to make an industry out of dragging them down.

Its memorable moments were diffuse and confusing—the Ronald Reagan assassination attempt, the dawn of AIDS, the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger. It had no protest movement, no opponent to unite it, none of the things that typically shape the ill-defined beast we call an American generation.

Jackson

Fawcett

These were the people who sent to the top of the charts a song called "We Don't Need Another Hero," then figured out how to churn them out wholesale, launching the celebrity obsession that is now an accepted part of American cultural fabric.

And that was personified nowhere better than in the two people who died Thursday.

She was, perhaps, the last in a line that began with Betty Grable in World War II—the bathing beauty who seemed kissed by the sun and exuded a potent combination of innocence and sexuality. But her "Charlie's Angels" jiggle-show image presaged another world entirely. It was the one that would come to be dominated first by Brooke and her Calvins and ultimately, as the hunger grew tawdrier, by American Apparel ads and the celebrity sex videos of Pamela Anderson and Paris Hilton.

She struggled for credibility after the poster and the Angels. She got it in 1984 with a dramatic turn as an abused wife in "The Burning Bed." But her last stand—a documentary about the cancer that killed her—was tainted by her run-ins with insatiable paparazzi and tabloids.

He was another thing entirely—perhaps the most recognizable face in the world, even more so than the pope or Barack Obama. His musical genius and energy seemed boundless for a time. They were rivaled only by his quirks, which consumed him.

He had a bumpy, extraordinarily public childhood. Then he spent an off-the-wall lifetime trying to get it back, erecting a ranch named after the fantasy land of Peter Pan and inviting children to share his life and his bed—with results that some said drifted into the criminal.

He caught fire in a Pepsi commercial. He shrouded his children in full-body coverings and dangled one over a balcony to show his fans below. His fabled multiple plastic surgeries turned him into someone almost unrecognizable. Nose sunk into face, cheekbones became caricature, ebony drifted into ivory.

Yet through it all, even when the years of his quirks outstripped the years of his glory, he remained one of the planet's most popular figures, selling out shows wherever he went. "Icon," civil rights leader the Rev. Al Sharpton said, was "only a fraction of what he was." But icon was, of course, what he always acted as if he wanted to be.

Today, celebrities aren't merely created for our consumption. Audiences are passive no longer. We demand a part in creating our icons: Jon and Kate Gosselin of "Jon and Kate Plus Eight" reality show fame and their ilk might as well be publicly held companies, and we all insist upon buying a few shares. Farrah and Michael Jackson were other—above us, maybe, or apart from us. Now, when we crown new icons, we want them to BE us.

"We want everything right now, and there's a blurring of reality. When does the celebrity world stop and our world begin?" said Penni Pier, an associate professor of communications at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

When Farrah gazed at us in her swimsuit and, a single moment in history later, MJ dared us to moonwalk, they commanded giant audiences. The world had not yet become fragmented into the microcommunities that exist today. We liked them or we hated them, but we shared the experience just as Walter Cronkite told us each night that "that's the way it is."

Today, when Lindsay Lohan Twitters pictures of herself to her legions of followers, the notion that a paper poster bought in a shopping-mall Spencer Gifts could change the celebrity game seems rustic. And the vinyl version of "Thriller," redolent of raw materials and production lines, is a ghost in the virtual world of iTunes—a world that the generation after X negotiates with the fluidity of natives.

In the 1990s, members of Generation X would often laugh in bars about how the time of the Boomers was passing—about how the quaintness and naivete that made up the 1960s was, finally, a grave being danced on by Nirvana's Kurt Cobain. Today, members of that same generation sit upon the ground and tell sad stories of the death of kings of pop.

A sexy poster upon a boy's wall in which a young woman grins wholesomely. A record album called "Thriller" and its attendant music videos, built upon the notion that sexiness came in the frisson of hints and suggestions rather than in cutting directly to the big reveal.

In the end, finally, they stand as the relics of a generation—one that struggled to find its place and now, suddenly, while still young, one that must wonder if it is as passe as the paper and vinyl that its icons' most memorable moments were etched upon.

We don't need another hero? After this week, are we sure?

Ted Anthony covers American culture for The Associated Press.

Carbon smoke and mirrors

By TODD DARLING
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

President George W. Bush fought global-warming policy all the way to the Supreme Court. And he lost. Despite this judicial rebuke, he opposed climate-change legislation to the end. Now, with President Barack Obama, White House views on global warming finally are in line with scientific data. But this doesn't mean that politics can't still trump science.

Congressional response to the climate crisis has taken shape in the Waxman-Markey American Clean Energy and Security Act. The bill has a lot to like. It sets efficiency standards, encourages alternative energy and establishes emissions ceilings on vehicles, industries and power companies by 2020.

However, key provisions of Waxman-Markey resemble earlier European efforts, and Europe's experience raises serious questions about the ability of this legislation to cut emissions or fund green solutions adequately.

The Waxman-Markey bill proposes a market-based "carbon trading" plan that mirrors a European system initiated in 2005. This plan requires polluters to obtain government-issued "carbon credits," which then allow them to pollute above the agreed-on limit.

Think of these pollution credits like a golf handicap. You would like to shoot 72 on 18 holes, but you rack up 108 on your card. So just as the hapless golfer would use his handicap to cover the 36-stroke deficit, polluters would use pollution credits to cover their extra emissions. What if a polluter doesn't have 36 credits? Then it must buy them on the open market or pay a penalty. The penalties are expensive, and so the polluter is motivated to find either a solution or more credits.

In theory, money generated by this "carbon market" will jumpstart investment in clean technology.

In a recent conference call to climate activists, Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., stated that his bill's carbon-trading plan "is based on work by the USCAP." USCAP, or the United States Climate Action Partnership, is a coalition of environmental groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Nature Conservancy and a couple dozen A-list corporations, including General Electric; Duke Energy; oil companies Shell, ConocoPhillips and BP America; chemical companies DuPont and Dow, and numerous utilities.

USCAP's carbon-trading plan, which became part of the Waxman-Markey plan, shares key details of the European system—most important, it gives 85 percent of the pollution credits to the biggest polluters for free.

The European experience shows the critical weakness of this plan. In Europe, the distribution of free pollution credits to industries failed to establish a strong carbon market. In turn, the weak market in carbon credits failed to generate the money needed to fund new technology. And because there was a glut of free credits, polluters that went over the emissions limit could buy the necessary credits cheaply.

Faced with disappointing results, Europe began auctioning off more credits in 2006. But the damage was done. The arrival of the recession caused the "carbon price" to plummet further. Critics point at companies that cut back their production 20 percent—and therefore presumably pollute 20 percent less—and now sell their unused pollution credits to prop up their bottom line. Money that was supposed to be generated from pollution credits to fund clean technology goes elsewhere.

The European trading scheme, started with free pollution credits, has not produced dramatic cuts in pollution or dramatic developments in technology or a robust market in carbon credits. The Financial Times of London was blunt: "Carbon markets leave much room for unverifiable manipulation. (Carbon) taxes are better, partly because they are less vulnerable to such improprieties."

Unfortunately, global warming and its solutions are complicated, but we have little time for mistakes.

A recent scientific report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that a 2-degree-Celsius warming of our atmosphere has a 90 percent chance of undoing the conditions on Earth that allowed and supported the development of human civilization.

Scientists from Oxford University, using this report, calculate that we can avoid this potentially catastrophic 2-degree warming if we limit our emissions between 2000 and 2050 to 1 trillion metric tons of carbon. They note that we already have burned 25 percent of that limit since 2000.

In response to criticism of the Waxman-Markey bill, the NRDC's Dan Lashof told National Public Radio's Warren Olney: "This is the best bill that can actually get through committee." Other supporters of the bill frequently cite Bismarck's line: "Politics is the art of the possible."

But which "possible" do they see? The 2007 corporate gauge of the best possible deal? Or the 2009 update of broad populist sentiment that favors coherent action over special interests?

Controlling pollution will require incentives. But does that mean giving away 85 percent of the credits for free, possibly setting up yet another questionable Wall Street "market"?

We need this bill to pass, but in a strengthened form: Put the emissions cap in line with the trillion-ton limit, cut back the freebies to fund innovation and green jobs and protect poor families from utility rate spikes.

In the face of clear scientific warnings, we have broad support for climate legislation. Don't let Congress waste this crisis on a historic miscalculation of what is possible. Talk to your representatives this week.

Darling produced and directed A Snow Mobile for George, *a documentary that examines the effect of environmental deregulation on individuals.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light southeast winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light southeast winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

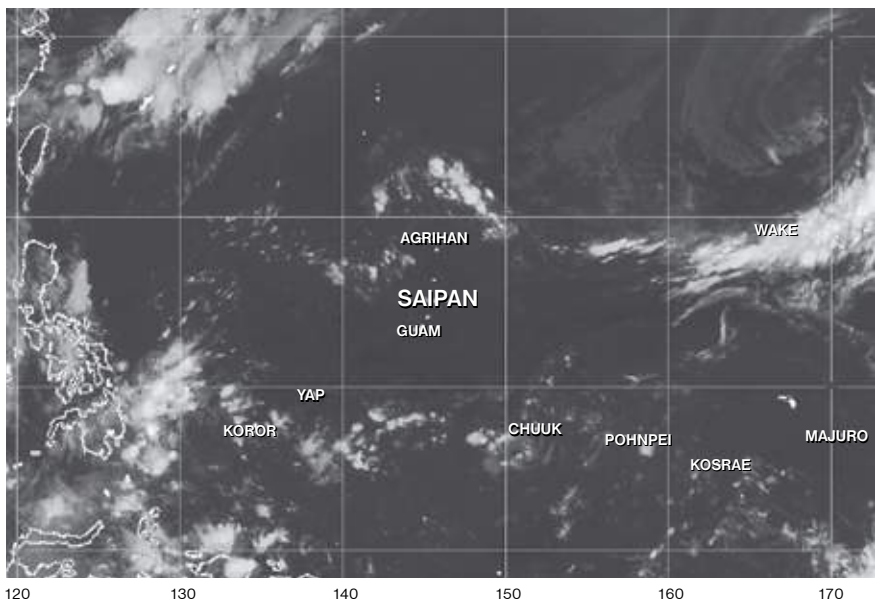
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼57
Beijing	Hot	▲101	▼75
Hong Kong	Showers	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼75
London	Showers	▲79	▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼64
Manila	Rain	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲61	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼75
New York	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼68
Osaka	Cloudy	▲79	▼69
Paris	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼60
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲84	▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼52
San Francisco	Sunny	▲81	▼57
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲91	▼70
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲86	▼71
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A late season cold front enters the discussion area at 25N175E and arcs southwestward near Wake Island at 17N165E to 20N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 140 miles of the cold front from 25N175E to 17N165E. A surface trough extends southwestward between Chuuk and Pohnpei from 10N157E to EQ151E. Scattered showers are located within 70 miles of a line from 6N150E to Pohnpei. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers in two areas. One area is located near Kwajalein and Kosrae state between 7N and EQ from 160E to 170E as well as southeast of Yap between 9N and 3N from 138E to 145E. A weak surface trough west of Koror extends southward from 10N130E to EQ135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the trough axis within 60 miles of a line from 11N132E to 5N131E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:29 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:15 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:25 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:07 AM	10:43 PM
Sunday	11:03 AM	11:23 PM
Monday	11:56 AM	
Tuesday	12:49 PM	12:03 AM
Wednesday	1:41 PM	12:42 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 27, 2000

No money for NMIRF
The NMI Retirement Fund should not expect to collect payment soon from the Tenorio administration to settle portion of the $32 million in unpaid government contributions despite anticipated good cash flow brought about by a recent loan agreement. The agency has pinned its hopes on the $30 million secured by the government from the Bank of Guam, which it said could be used to partly meet the growing financial obligations. While the CNMI has already forged an agreement with the bank over release of funds from the loan, these will be set aside to match federal construction grants for various capital improvement projects on the islands, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Two major Saipan retailers close shop
The turtle-paced recovery of the CNMI economy from the two-year currency crisis in Asia continues to take its toll on the local business community, forcing two major retailers to cease operations in the Northern Marianas in the last few weeks. While company officials remain mum on the reason that triggered the closure of the establishments on Saipan, business analysts said weaker consumer confidence and the sudden change in the spending behavior of tourists are major factors behind the slow rally of the local economy. Since the beginning of the year, A-One shoe store held a series of inventory and clearance sale, to apparently mitigate further losses, before it finally shut its doors to customers earlier this month.

June 27, 2001

More businesses closing down
The CNMI continues to feel the grip of hard economic times, as the islands witness the demise of more small business establishments due to the enduring contraction of visitor traffic figures. A big number of small retail shops in downtown Garapan have either looked around for and transferred to another location with cheaper rental rates, or completely stopped doing business to arrest further losses. The economic crisis' latest victim is 11-year-old Tradewinds import shop in Western Garapan. Tradewinds is scheduled to finally pull down the shutter on June 30 and seal off the first arts and craft store on Saipan.

Hotels clip operational costs
Faced with an 11-month low in room occupancy rate, a significant number of hotels in the Northern Marianas have resorted to cost-cutting measures to make up for lost revenue. Hyatt Regency Saipan General Manager Mustafa Issa revealed that aside from placing a moratorium on new hires, which Hyatt began implementing when the economic crisis started, the hotel has also stopped replacing employees who have resigned. Issa said the policy is part of Hyatt's cost-cutting measure, one that is also being implemented by other members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Island, where Issa serves as vice president. In 1998, Hyatt had a complement of more than 500 employees. Today, the number has gone down to a staff of only about 340.

June 27, 2002

CDA OKs tax break for Tinian Dynasty
The Commonwealth Development Authority granted Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's application for a 10-year tax relief under the recently implemented Qualifying Certificate Program. Tinian Dynasty's application is now awaiting the approval of Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who is currently in an off-island meeting. CDA Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio said the development authority unanimously approved Tinian Dynasty's application during a meeting held Friday last week. The Board believes that the Gross Receipt Tax and Bar Tax exemptions would facilitate the further growth of Tinian Dynasty.

'Verizon sale becoming a political game'
If there is one thing that House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero agree on, it's in the belief that the Verizon Pacifica sale has become a political hot button. Guerrero said the sale of the telecommunications firm has become a political game for the CNMI government, probably because of the persons involved in the sale of Verizon. The bidding for Verizon has been won by the Citadel consortium, consisting of the Citadel Holdings Inc. (50 percent), Tan Holdings Corp. (30 percent) and minor shareholders (20 percent). "It has become a political game, maybe because of the personalities associated with the sale, which should not be the case in the first place," said the senator.

Business

Jobless claims rise; GDP dips at lower pace in 1Q

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite persistent layoffs, the economy seems to be faring better than it was at the start of the year.

The Labor Department said Thursday that new jobless claims jumped unexpectedly last week. And the number of people continuing to receive unemployment aid rose more than expected.

The figures indicate that jobs remain scarce even as the economy shows some signs of recovering from the longest recession since World War II.

A revised reading on gross domestic product—the broadest measure of the nation's output—said the economy posted a 5.5 percent annualized decline from January through March. That was slightly better than the 5.7 percent estimate made a month ago. Economists generally think the economy is shrinking at a slower pace—about 2 percent—in the current quarter.

The main forces behind the small upgrade in the first quarter: Businesses didn't cut stockpiles of goods as much, and imports dropped more sharply than previously estimated.

On Wall Street, investors shrugged off the unexpected rise in jobless claims and focused on positive earnings reports from homebuilder Lennar Corp. and home furnishings store Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. The Dow Jones industrial average added about 145 points in afternoon trading. Broader indices also rose more than 1 percent.

Initial claims for jobless benefits rose last week by 15,000 to a seasonally adjusted 627,000. Economists had expected a drop to 600,000. Several states reported more claims than expected from teachers, cafeteria workers and other school employees, a Labor Department analyst said.

The number of people who are continuing to receive unemployment insurance rose by 29,000 to 6.74 million, slightly above analysts' estimates of 6.7 million. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out fluctuations, was largely unchanged, at 616,750.

Most economists still expect the number of initial unemployment insurance claims, which reflects the level of layoffs, to decline slowly in coming months as the recession bottoms out.

Fed scales back emergency lending programs

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve took the first step Thursday toward winding down the numerous emergency lending programs it launched last fall at the height of the financial crisis.

The Fed will allow one program intended to support money market mutual funds to lapse by Oct. 31, and is reducing the amount it will lend to banks under two others.

The Fed also is extending through Feb. 1, 2010, five other programs scheduled to expire Oct. 31. That includes swap lines with 14 central banks that enable them to provide dollars to their financial systems in exchange for giving the Fed foreign currencies.

The changes are the first by the central bank designed to scale back its efforts to support the financial system. The Fed pumped trillions of dollars into commercial and investment banks through an alphabet-soup of emergency programs as the banks hoarded cash and refused to lend to each other and consumers late last year.

At the same time, the Fed is moving cautiously. The program that will end in October hasn't actually been used, and the programs being scaled back have seen much less demand from banks in recent months.

The Fed says the moves reflect its view that "financial markets have improved in recent months, but market functioning in many areas remains impaired" and likely will be "strained for some time."

The Fed said it will allow the Money Market Investor Funding Facility to expire Oct. 31. The program was part of the government's efforts last fall to prevent a run on money market mutual funds, after one fund saw its shares fall below $1 in the wake of Lehman Brothers' collapse in September.

The Fed facility, which was never used, was intended to reassure investors that money funds would be able to fully redeem their investments, by allowing the funds to sell assets to the central bank.

The Fed also said it will reduce the maximum amount it will lend under the Term Auction Facility, which provides one-month loans to banks, to $500 billion from $600 billion.

The Fed has lent $336.6 billion under the TAF, down from a peak of $493.1 billion in March.

The Term Securities Lending Facility, which allows investment banks to borrow the Fed's Treasury securities in exchange for riskier mortgage-backed securities and corporate bonds, also is being scaled down.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. mother charged with changing daughter's grades

HUNTINGDON, Pa. (AP)—A high school secretary illegally changed grades in a school computer system to improve her daughter's class standing, according to criminal charges filed Thursday. Caroline Maria McNeal of Huntingdon is accused of using the passwords of three co-workers without their knowledge to tamper with dozens of grades and test scores between May 2006 and July 2007 at Huntingdon Area High School in central Pennsylvania, the state attorney general's office said. McNeal, 39, is alleged to have improved her daughter Brittany's grades and reduced those of two classmates to enhance Brittany's standing in the 2008 graduating class.

2 indicted in Arizona diversity office bombing

PHOENIX (AP)—Two white supremacists from Illinois have been indicted in a 2004 mail bombing that injured the diversity director in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale, federal authorities said. Twin brothers Dennis and Daniel Mahon are charged with conspiracy to damage buildings and property by means of explosive, according to an indictment unsealed Thursday and filed June 16 in federal court. The indictment says the brothers intended to "promote racial discord" on behalf of the White Aryan Resistance, a decades-old group based in California.

Man charged with murdering 4 at Kansas home

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP)—A 37-year-old man was charged Thursday with murdering four people, including a 3-year-old girl whose body was found in the front yard of a Kansas City home. Adrian Burks, of Kansas City, Kan., is charged with four counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of 66-year-old James Warren, 21-year-old Amanda Remmers, 41-year-old Peggy Castleberry and Castleberry's 3-year-old daughter, Juanita D. Castleberry-Bess. All died from multiple gunshot wounds. Wyandotte County District Attorney Jerome A. Gorman said he was considering filing capital murder charges against Burks.

Hundreds of Jackson fans converge on hospital

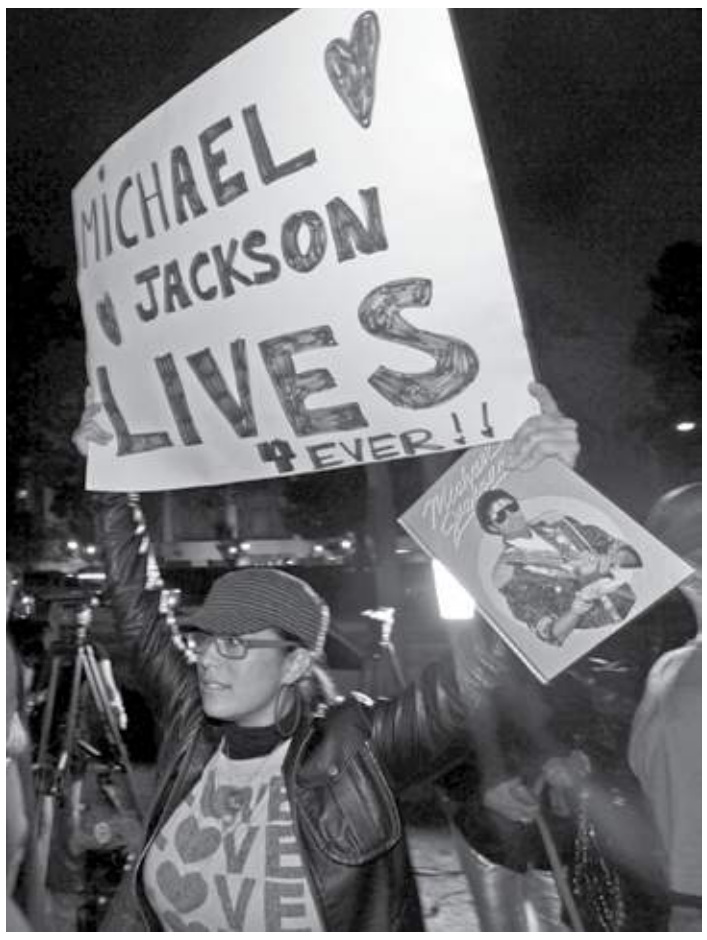
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Across the country, people reacted in stunned disbelief Thursday as word spread that Michael Jackson had collapsed and died.

Within minutes of Jackson's arrival by ambulance at UCLA Medical Center people began arriving by the hundreds, the crowd quickly filling a grassy entrance outside the hospital. As word spread that Jackson had been pronounced dead, several people burst into tears. Others simply stood in disbelief. Still others whipped out cell phones and began calling or texting friends.

At Times Square in New York, where people had begun gathering as word spread that Jackson had fallen ill, a collective groan went up from the crowd as the words announcing his death flashed across a giant TV screen.

During Los Angeles' notoriously slow-paced rush-hour commute, Jackson's music could be heard blaring from several cars along busy Wilshire Boulevard.

"I'm in shock. He's gone. The legend of music," Becky Williams said in disbelief as she stood outside Jackson's home in Los Angeles' tony Holmby Hills neighborhood. Williams, 26, of Salt Lake City, had been visiting her sister, who lives down the street.



AP

An unidentified fan holds a poster outside the UCLA Medical Center, where entertainer Michael Jackson was taken, in Los Angeles, Thursday, June 25, 2009.

Another neighbor, Roxana Radnia, was driving past Jackson's home when she saw an ambulance.

"I was just listening to his music, to 'Thriller,' yesterday on my iPod," said Radnia, 21. "And now this. It's surreal."

Outside the hospital, as news spread that Jackson had died, Seth Casteel pulled out an iPod and began playing Jackson's song "Heal the World" at full volume.

As the crowd at the hospital increased by the minute, police and security officers in plainclothes quickly blocked off entrances. When word spread that a news conference was scheduled for a hospital auditorium hundreds of people tried to rush in and police had to quickly shut it down.

Back in Holmby Hills, cars—many of them with stereo systems blaring songs from "Thriller" and other classic Jackson albums—began to clog the streets. As people began to abandon the vehicles to snap pictures of the home, a police officer used a loudspeaker to warn that their cars would be towed.

Among those who drove to the neighborhood was Sue Mossell, who was visiting from Georgia with her two sons, 7-year-old Ryan and 12-year-old Jimmy. Ryan placed a pink flower in front of Jackson's gate.

Across the country, reaction poured in from all corners.

"Ladies and gentlemen, Michael Jackson has just died," a woman boarding a bus in New York City's borough of Manhattan called out to fellow riders, who immediately grabbed their cell phones to learn more.

"People are already texting about it, remembering his greatest moments," said 17-year-old Delmar Dualeh.

At Miami International Airport, travelers swarmed television sets.

Kathleen Magnaye of New York was at Los Angeles' Venice Beach when she received a frantic call from her boyfriend. She raced to Jackson's house with her 14-year-old sister to take photos.

US swine flu infections may have hit 1 million

ATLANTA (AP)—Swine flu has infected as many as 1 million Americans, U.S. health officials said Thursday, adding that 6 percent or more of some urban populations are infected. The estimate voiced by a government flu scientist Thursday was no surprise to the experts who have been closely watching the virus.

"We knew diagnosed cases were just the tip of the iceberg," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University infectious diseases expert who was in Atlanta for the meeting of a vaccine advisory panel.

Lyn Finelli, a flu surveillance official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, made the 1 million estimate in a presentation to the vaccine panel. The number is from mathematical modeling, based on surveys by health officials.

Regular seasonal flu sickens anywhere from 15 million to 60 million Americans each year.

The United States has roughly half the world's swine flu cases, with nearly 28,000 reported to the CDC so far. The U.S. count includes 3,065 hospitalizations and 127 deaths.

The percentage of cases hospitalized has been growing, but that may be due to closer scrutiny of very sick patients. It takes about three days from the time symptoms appear to hospitalization, Finelli said, and the average hospital stay has been three days.

Other health problems have been a factor in most cases: About one in three of the hospitalized cases had asthma, 16 percent diabetes, 12 percent have immune system problems and 11 percent chronic heart disease.

The numbers again highlight how the young seem to be particularly at risk of catching the new virus. But data also show that the flu has been more dangerous to adults who catch it.

The average age of swine flu patients is 12, the average age for hospitalized patients is 20, and for people who died, it was 37. It seems to be deadliest to people 65 and older, with deaths in more than 2 percent of elderly people infected, Finelli said.

Also at the meeting, CDC officials made projections about flu vaccines expected to be available to protect against both seasonal and swine flu this fall.

More than 25 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine should be available by early September, CDC officials and vaccine manufacturers said.

The same five manufacturers that make the seasonal vaccine are producing swine flu vaccine as well. As many as 60 million doses of vaccine to protect against the new virus could be ready by September, said Robin Robinson, an official with the federal agency that oversees vaccine manufacture and distribution. That prediction seemed a bit optimistic, others at the meeting said.

Politicians call for disgraced governor to resign

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A day after his stunning confession that he cheated on his wife with a woman in Argentina, a chastened Gov. Mark Sanford sought to do damage control Thursday at home with his family while many politicians urged the South Carolina leader to resign.

Fellow Republicans issued sharp calls for the disgraced Sanford to step down—a move he indicated he was not considering. And at least one campaign donor was drafting a letter asking for his money back.

One county GOP leader said the governor "talked about how our leaders have stepped away from our core values, and said one thing on the campaign trail or out in the public and did something different in the background."

Glenn McCall, a local representative to the Republican National Committee, said the GOP "can recover from this if we hold him accountable and the governor does the right thing and resigns for the sake of the party."

Sanford emerged briefly Thursday from his family's home on Sullivans Island, off the coast from Charleston, and rolled down the window of his car to talk. Asked if he planned to resign, he shook his head no.

Sanford

Sanford also issued a statement promising to reimburse the state for an economic-development trip he took to Argentina last year that included time spent with his mistress. State Commerce Department records indicate more than $8,000 was spent on airfare, lodging and meals, though Sanford did not say how much he will pay back.

After disappearing to Buenos Aires for almost a week, Sanford returned Wednesday to reveal the affair and publicly apologize to his wife and four sons, his supporters and constituents. He also resigned as chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

His emotional news conference had even harsh critics holding their fire, saying they were praying for the family to reconcile.

But the gloves started coming off Thursday as it became clear that Sanford had used state resources on at least one trade trip that included a tryst with his lover.

Senators claim $1 trillion health bill in reach

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senators working to give President Barack Obama a comprehensive health care overhaul said Thursday they had figured out how to pare back the complex legislation to keep costs from crashing through a $1 trillion, 10-year ceiling.

The announcement from Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., and other lawmakers amounted to a small, parting gift to Obama on his top domestic priority as Congress prepares to leave town for its weeklong July 4 recess. It moved Congress a bit closer to a deal on legislation to lower costs and provide coverage to nearly 50 million Americans who lack it.

It also capped two weeks of tough going for health care negotiations on Capitol Hill as price tags as high as $1.6 trillion over 10 years sent senators back to the drawing board and forced deadlines to be repeatedly reset.

"We have options that would enable us to write a $1 trillion bill, fully paid for," Baucus said at a news conference.

Baucus declined to detail how the costs were being cut, but options included difficult sacrifices like potentially delaying an expansion of Medicaid, the federal-state program for the poor.

Others have said the changes made in recent days would lower the cost of government subsidies for those who cannot afford insurance, as well as pare back a planned 10-year series of rate increases for doctors serving Medicare patients.

Aides said the Congressional Budget Office had estimated that the elements under consideration would extend coverage to 97 percent of the population, excluding illegal immigrants.

But even Democrats acknowledged that Thursday's announcement fell fall short of a final deal on legislation to meet Obama's goals.

"There's not a final bill that's agreed to. What there is now is a clear path to having a bill that is paid for," said Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., one of seven Republican and Democratic Finance Committee senators who've been working closely on the deal.

Asia

US, S. Korea hold defense talks amid NKorea threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Top U.S. and South Korean defense officials met Friday for talks expected to focus on heightened tensions over North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak called the North a "stumbling block" to world peace and security.

Defense Undersecretary Michele Flournoy's trip to Seoul came as the U.S. sought international support for aggressively enforcing a U.N. sanctions resolution aimed at punishing Pyongyang for its second nuclear test last month.

North Korea has in response escalated threats of war, with a slew of harsh rhetoric including warnings that it would unleash a "fire shower of nuclear retaliation" and "wipe out the (U.S.) agressors" in the event of a conflict.

On Thursday, the communist regime organized a massive anti-American rally in Pyongyang where some 100,000 participants vowed to "crush" the U.S. One senior speaker told the crowd that the North will respond to any sanctions or U.S. provocations with "an annihilating blow."

That was seen as a pointed threat as an American destroyer shadowed a North Korean freighter sailing off China's coast, possibly with banned goods on board. The North Korean-flagged ship, Kang Nam 1, is the first to be tracked under the U.N. resolution.

Flournoy's Asia trip, which already took her to Beijing and Tokyo, also followed signs that North Korea is gearing up to test-fire short- or medium-range missiles in violation of the U.N. resolution. Pyongyang has issued a no-sail zone in waters off its east coast, effective from Thursday through July 10.

Details of Flournoy's talks with South Korea's Defense Minister Lee Sang-hee were not immediately available. She made no comments to reporters upon arrival at the Defense Ministry for the meeting.

AP

South Korean conservative activists carry a mock North Korean missile during a rally denouncing North's nuclear program in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, June 25, 2009.

Suicide bomber kills 2 troops in Pakistani Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up early Friday near an army vehicle, killing at least two soldiers in the first such assault in Pakistan's part of divided Kashmir, the military said, marking a possible escalation in the militant campaign against security forces.

The attack took place in Muzaffarabad, the region's capital. The military said in a statement three other soldiers were wounded and rushed to a nearby hospital.

Although Pakistan has witnessed scores of such attacks in recent months, Friday's blast was the first in its portion of Kashmir, which is divided between Pakistan and archrival India. Both nations claim the mountainous region in its entirety.

For the past 20 years, India has accused Pakistan of harboring Islamic militants in the region and helping them sneak across the boundary into its part of the Himalayan enclave to launch attacks on Indian security forces—although Pakistan has always denied giving anything more than moral and diplomatic support to the rebels.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Friday's attack, but it could signal that Taliban militants facing Pakistani army offensives in the northwest of the country are prepared to retaliate against Pakistani forces in Kashmir as well.

Also Friday, a roadside bomb exploded near a military convoy near Miran Shah, the main town in the troubled region of North Waziristan, wounding at least three soldiers, two local intelligence officials said, requesting anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to media.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar says American main culprit in Suu Kyi case

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's national police chief said Thursday that the American man who swam uninvited to the home of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was the "main culprit" in the case filed against her. The comment could signal a less aggressive stance against the Nobel Peace laureate, who is being tried for violating the terms of her house arrest when John William Yettaw entered her closely guarded lakeside home last month and stayed two days. Yettaw and Suu Kyi's two women companions are also charged. If convicted, the 64-year-old faces up to five years in prison. She has been under house arrest for more than 13 of the last 19 years.

Rising toll at US military hospital in Afghanistan

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AP)—The urgent call came in: Roadside bombs had ripped through two Humvees and wounded eight or nine U.S. soldiers. Medevac helicopters immediately hit the air to ferry the soldiers to the main U.S. military hospital. But when they arrived, they carried only five patients. The other four were dead.

Dethroned Nepal king's palace now a tourist haunt

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Pity the king. He has had to flee his palace, with its Graceland-meets-the-Himalayas decor, and decamp to a house up the hill. His only son, the hard-living former crown prince, has moved to Singapore. And now, in a crowning indignity, tourists are traipsing through what was once a private world sealed off by soldiers and tall brick walls. Just three years ago he was King Gyanendra, ruling this mountain nation with absolute power as the living embodiment of the Hindu god Vishnu. Today he is simply Mr. Gyanendra Shah, a 61-year-old businessman with interests in hotels and tea plantations who clings to the royal title only by tradition. He lives in a small house in the Katmandu hills with his wife, and doesn't give interviews.

World

Iran reformist says he won't end challenge

By KARIN LAUB
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Iranian authorities briefly arrested dozens of university professors who met with embattled opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, his Web site said Thursday, but he vowed to persevere with his election challenge despite the apparent attempt to isolate him from his supporters.

The declared winner of the June 12 balloting, hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, accused President Barack Obama of meddling in Iran's affairs.

Obama, along with other Western leaders, has ratcheted up his criticism of Iran's clampdown on postelection protesters in recent days, which Tehran has described as foreign interference.

In the latest sign of government attempts to silence dissent, 70 professors were detained late Wednesday after meeting with Mousavi, who has alleged massive fraud in the balloting. They were among a group pushing for a more liberal form of government, and all but four were released, his Web site said later. No details were given about those still in custody. Since Saturday, demonstrators challenging the election results have found themselves increasingly struggling under a blanket crackdown by government authorities.

State media reported Thursday that in addition to the 17 protesters killed in the recent unrest, eight members of the pro-government Basij militia were killed and dozens more wounded by weapons and knives. The reports could not be independently verified.

A Thursday march by another opposition figure, reformist presidential candidate Mahdi Karroubi, was postponed for lack of a permit, a day after club-wielding security forces dispersed a small group of protesters outside Iran's parliament.

Mousavi's Web site, Kalemeh, said he has applied for permission to hold a gathering to commemorate the "martyrs" of the postelection campaign. The statement did not elaborate or give a date.

Mousavi, who last led a massive protest rally a week ago, described his growing difficulties for the first time in a statement on the site.

He said authorities were increasingly isolating and vilifying him to try to get him to withdraw his election challenge, but Mousavi added he would not back down.

Iraqi bombings kill scores ahead of US withdrawal

BAGHDAD (AP)—The bombing of a Baghdad bus station Thursday pushed the death toll from a weeklong series of blasts near Shiite targets to about 200, calling into question Iraq's ability to provide security as U.S. combat troops slowly withdraw from cities.

The wave of attacks is undermining Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's declaration of a "great victory" in the U.S. pullout from urban areas by next Tuesday's deadline. He has declared June 30 a national holiday to be marked with celebrations.

Al-Maliki, a Shiite, has pinned his re-election hopes largely on security gains that have driven violence to wartime lows—an issue that's become his stump speech in an undeclared campaign for a second term. Seven months before national elections, he tells audiences that he's quashed major violence, dismembered al-Qaida and stamped out Shiite militias.

Much of his recent rhetoric has focused on June 30, part of a security agreement that calls for American forces to leave Iraq by the end of 2011.

On Saturday, al-Maliki declared that date a national victory and urged Iraqis to hold steady in the face of more violence, saying "don't worry if some security breach occurs here or there."

A few hours later, suspected Sunni insurgents struck in northern Iraq. A truck bomb packed with nearly a ton of explosives exploded in a Shiite town just outside the ethnically tense city of Kirkuk, killing 82 people. Officials blamed al-Qaida in Iraq for the attack.

On Monday, shootings and bombings killed more than 30 people in Baghdad's Shiite neighborhoods. After a smattering of deadly attacks the following day, a massive bomb in the Baghdad Shiite stronghold of Sadr City left 78 people dead on Wednesday.

WORLD BRIEFS

TV: Al-Qaida says it killed American in Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP)—Al-Qaida's North African branch has claimed responsibility for the killing of an American aid worker shot dead this week in Mauritania's capital, Al-Jazeera TV reported Thursday. The Arab satellite TV station aired an audio statement purportedly issued by al-Qaida of the Islamic Maghreb spokesman Salah Abu Mohammed, who said the group killed 39-year-old Christopher Ervin Leggett on Tuesday because he was allegedly trying to convert Muslims to Christianity. "Two knights of the Islamic Maghreb succeeded Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. to kill the infidel American Christopher Leggett for his Christianizing activities," the statement said. The statement's authenticity could not be independently verified.

Hamas leader welcomes Obama's new Mideast approach

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—The top Hamas leader on Thursday welcomed what he said is "new language" by President Barack Obama toward the Islamic militant group—part of Hamas' cautious outreach to Washington in recent weeks. In a televised speech, Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal avoided any mention of the recent turmoil in Iran, even though the Islamic militant group is backed by the Tehran regime. Earlier Thursday, Iran's hardline president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, accused Obama of meddling because of growing U.S. criticism of Iran's clampdown on opposition protesters. Iran's other militant ally, the Lebanese Hezbollah group, has sided with Iran's ruling clerics.

Honduras leader refuses to restore military chief

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—The Honduran president vowed Thursday to ignore a Supreme Court ruling ordering him to reinstate the military chief he fired, escalating a showdown that has threatened the leftist leader's hold on power. President Manuel Zelaya's attempt to hold a referendum Sunday on changing the constitution has pitted him against the country's top courts, the attorney general, military leaders and even his own party, all of whom argue the vote is illegal. But Zelaya has galvanized the support of labor leaders, farmers and civic organizations who hope constitutional reforms will give them a greater voice in a conservative country where 70 percent of the population is poor.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, June 27, 2009

NMI Pinoys urged to renew OWWA membership

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

One of the many wishes of former Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo before he ended his six-year tour of duty is for all the Filipinos in the CNMI to apply or renew their membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration on time and not only when something bad happens to them.

Maximo said this has always been a big challenge for the consulate general, particularly since his office always gets criticized whenever they are unable to provide OWWA benefits to non-members.

"It is so sad that we are always at the receiving end and we could not do anything because it is the personal responsibility to renew one's membership," said Maximo during a farewell party thrown him by leaders of different Filipino groups under the United Filipino Organizations Tuesday night at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Maximo urged Filipinos to continue supporting the programs of OWWA, the consulate general, and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

"I would like to all our countrymen here on Saipan to please give them [OWWA, consulate, POLO] the chance to prove themselves and not just listen to rumors," he said.

Maximo explained that OWWA, although not compulsory because it is a voluntary contribution, is a personal insurance as well as a document that would entitle members to the many benefits the agency provides such as loans and educational scholarship and livelihood programs.

"What is $25? Instead of buying a pack of cigarette or instead of going to poker machines, paying the fee is just like also thinking about your family back home," he said.

Maximo left Saipan last Wednesday and he will soon start with a new desk assignment at the Department of Foreign Affairs' main office in Manila.

His replacement will be Medardo Macaraig, who is scheduled to come in on July 25.

Consul Belinda Ante is the acting consul general. She said the consulate will continue with its usual systems.

When asked about the biggest challenge the consulate faces, she said it is the federalization of immigration because "we cannot move without the regulations."

Sailing around RP in an ancient 'balangay'

By KATHERINE EVANGELISTA
INQUIRER.NET

AP

Craftsmen work on a 16-yard (48 foot) replica of an ancient Malay boat locally known as a balangay, used 1,700 years ago, inside a shelter Wednesday, June 17, 2009, in Pasay City south of Manila, Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines—After conquering the world's highest peak, the Mount Everest Team will attempt another feat that would make Filipinos proud. This time much closer to home: It will sail to different coastal areas of the country onboard a replica of a balangay.

Using the balangay, an ancient vessel used by the Sama people (more popularly known in its Malay name as the Badjao tribe) of Tawi-tawi, the Mount Everest Team will once again show the world what the Filipino is capable of.

"Our inspiration is that Filipinos can do anything," says project coordinator Art Valdez.

"They are a very talented people if they put their minds at the right place, and focus on the right things. They can do so much to improve themselves rather than dissipate their energy onto so many things."

The plan to build a balangay replica was hatched June 2008 and the team immediately enlisted the assistance of Rey Santiago, an archaeologist at the Philippine National Museum, to research on the boats recovered from Butuan City in the 1970s, Valdez says.

Construction of the 15-meter boat began April 19 and is scheduled to be finished soon in time for the launching to sea of the vessel on June 27 at the Manila Bay, he adds.

The boat and the Badjaos

Jubail Muyong is the team leader of Badjao pandays or carpenters who are building the balangay. He says the boat is made of natural materials and constructed by ancient methods passed from generation to generation.

"Ancient talaga dahil ang ginamit namin lahat puro mga yung sinaunang kagamitan ng mga ninuno namin na transferred sa mga tatay namin (This is truly ancient because we use the tools which our forefathers passed on to our fathers)," Muyong explains.

Instinct and stock knowledge guide the construction team because no blueprint or instructions on building such a ship are in existence.

"Sinabi lang sa amin na ganito itsura at ang haba ng kilya ay ganito, alam na naming (We were told about how it should look like and we already know)," Muyong says.

Unlike modern shipbuilding methods where the ship is built on a skeletal frame, balangays are built the other way around.

The shell of the balangay, made of planks of hardwood attached together with wooden pegs and tree sap, is built first upon the keel or the spinal column of the ship. Once the hull of the boat is finished, the frame will be constructed inside the boat and secured to the vessel using woven rattan.

In the past, Sama de Laot people (water dwellers) used balangays as their residence on water, Muyong says.

Historians also believe that the Tagalog term barangay, which means village, came from the word balangay.

The sailing team

The 20-man sailing team is composed of members of the Mount Everest Team, the Philippine Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard, and some Badjaos. They are set to set sail in mid-July, says Valdez. They would only sail during the day and dock on various ports or islands that they will pass by during the night.

But the trip is not for leisure alone. Janet Belarmino-Sardena, a member of the crew and the Coast Guard, says the team would also conduct medical missions and promote educational and cultural awareness in the communities they visit. Sardena says the team, together with experts from the National Museum, will also have symposiums and educational lectures for students in the towns and villages they will visit.

"Kasi nga educational ito, education ito sa mga people na marami nga tayong history na kailangan malaman at marami pa tayong madi-discover na hindi natin alam ngayon (This is educational, as we don't know a lot about our history and we still need to discover more)," she says.

The thrust of the boat project to is to rekindle the maritime consciousness among the Filipinos, she says, at the same reconnect us to our past.

Practical trip too

Aside from medical missions and educational lessons, the team also aims to teach communities disaster-response methods, says Dr. Tred Esguerra, expedition and wilderness emergency doctor.

People should know how to administer community-level disaster-management methods in case of calamities like flooding, tidal surges, and earthquakes, he says.

"I want this community to survive on the first blow. They themselves should also know how to step up," he says.

"We will use this vessel to serve as a bridge, especially the coastal communities," says Esguerra, also a dive medical officer and flight surgeon.

'Kaya ng Pinoy'

The project is set to last until 2013, traveling next around Southeast Asia and hopefully all the way to South Africa by 2010.

"Just like in a course, you want to take up higher and advanced learning but you have to start from the beginning. So our first year is learning how to sail in the Philippines, learning how the boat performs," Valdez says.

As in the Mount Everest project, this is a five-year process, "with no short cuts," he says.

Taking the team's "Kaya ng Pinoy (The Filipino can do it)" slogan to heart, Valdez says this project aims to reawaken the Filipino's sense of patriotism and pride in its rich culture.

"Filipinos could have done so much if they put focus on themselves as a people and bring it to move forward but since we are also a little bit confused exactly where we are going, it's better to look back into the past to anchor ourselves to something we can really be proud of," Valdez says.

LABOR FRONT

Changes to alien labor regulations

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: The Department of Labor has adopted as permanent new alien labor regulations. What are the new changes with respect to fees that will be collected by Labor?

A: Under the newly adopted regulations, Labor will no longer collect $40 for application for part-time employment. There are also changes in terms of the other payments such as: Filing for an appeal of a denial to the hearing office (per person), $25; penalty fee for untimely renewal (limit 60 days), $5 per day; processing a temporary work authorization (6 months), $150; renewal of temporary work authorization (per month), $25; filing a labor complaint (per person), $20; filing an appeal to the Secretary (per person, except in agency cases), $40; and contract extensions (up to six months), $35/month.

■ ■ ■

Q: If an employer is downsizing, what will happen to the pending application to hire alien worker/s?

A: According to the regulations, upon receipt of notice from an employer of a reduction in force, downsizing or partial closure, the Labor Director should immediately deny all pending applications filed by the employer to hire foreign national workers from off-island.

■ ■ ■

Q: How should an employer implement changes to an existing employment contract for alien workers?

A: The regulations state that a change to an existing approved employment contract may be implemented or performed only with prior agreement of both parties to the contract. And this can be done with prior submission of a standard form provided by Labor, provided however that hours may not be reduced below 32 per week.

A contract extension or amendment does not require prior approval of, but may be denied by, the Labor Director.

Disclaimer: *Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.*

Boy kidnapped in Philippines, ransom suspected

COTABATO, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen seized a 4-year-old boy on his way home from school in the southern Philippines, authorities said Friday, blaming a notorious kidnapping-for-ransom gang allegedly in league with local officials.

Police and soldiers arrested one suspect—a former radio DJ—hours after the four gunmen in a car snatched the son of a Chinese-Filipino trader in Cotabato city on Thursday, Senior Superintendent Willie Dangane said.

The three other suspects, believed to be holding the boy in a village near Cotabato, reportedly are employees of the transportation department of a Muslim autonomous region in the southern Philippines, Dangane said.

The boy was suffering from fever and asthma, he said.

Cotabato Mayor Muslimin Sema suspected that the kidnapping, the fourth in the region since May, was the work of a group of former Muslim rebels and local gunmen known as the Pentagon gang. The group has been blamed for several abductions in recent years in the central part of southern Mindanao island, where Muslim rebels maintain strongholds.

The rebels have been fighting for Muslim self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south for decades.

Sema said the series of ransom kidnappings could be linked to next year's national elections as candidates may be looking for ways to fund their campaigns. Kidnappings and bank robberies usually rise ahead of elections.

Wealthy traders of Chinese descent and their families are often targets of kidnappings.

The 70-year-old sister of a Chinese-Filipino hotel owner in the city was released from seven days of captivity earlier this month after her family paid a ransom. Her brother and his 10-year-old daughter were also held in February for four days.

Last month, Philippine troops and Muslim rebels worked together in a brief, rare alliance to force the kidnappers to abandon a Chinese tourist held for five days.

The Abu Sayyaf, a smaller but more violent al-Qaida-linked group, also has carried out kidnappings in the southern Philippines, and has been holding an Italian Red Cross worker since January.

WIDESPREAD FLOODING AP

A Filipino worker carries wood through floodwaters at a flood-prone area of Malabon, north of Manila, Philippines on Thursday June 25, 2009. Tropical storm Nangka cut across the northern Philippines, leaving at least eight killed and 11 missing amid widespread flooding, officials said.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

4 dead in ambush on anti-drug dad, companions

SAN PABLO CITY—A city councilor, his bodyguard, and a former village captain were killed while two others were wounded in an ambush by at least six gunmen on Wednesday, police said yesterday. One of the assailants was also killed when the bodyguard returned fire before he died. Police identified the dead as Danilo Yang, councilor and noted anti-illegal drug advocate; his bodyguard Brando de los Santos; and Romulo Barcenas, former captain of Barangay (village) Santiago 2. The fourth dead man, the assailant, had not been identified. The report said the ambush took place in Barangay Bautista near an elementary school in the area at about 9 p.m., while Yang was attending an amateur singing contest held for the feast of John the Baptist, the village's patron saint. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Drugs, orgy linked to teen's death

MANILA, Philippines—Police are not discounting the possibility that drugs and a sex orgy gone awry might have led to the death of the 18-year-old television talent in a condominium building in Quezon City on Wednesday. The victim, Benjamin Peralta, allegedly fell to his death from Unit 1 Penthouse of Tower B of Victoria Towers in Barangay (village) West Triangle at dawn Wednesday. His body was found sprawled on the ledge of the sixth story. Chief Inspector Benjamin Elenzano, chief of the homicide unit of the Quezon City Police District, said they were still waiting for the autopsy result that would determine how Peralta died exactly. "Initial investigation showed that he was hurled or pushed to the glass window by a strong force that smashed the glass," Elenzano said. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Doctor in charge of A(H1N1) murdered

DAVAO CITY—Unidentified gunmen shot dead the chief epidemiologist of the Department of Health in Southern Mindanao on Wednesday, police said Thursday. Doctor Rogelio Peñera was driving his Honda Civic sedan and was to enter the Countryville Subdivision in the village of Cabantian in Buhangin district here, where he lived, when attacked around 6:45 p.m. His 15-year-old daughter, who was with him, was shot in the arm. Father and daughter were rushed to the Davao Medical Center, but the elder Peñera died on the way. Doctors said he died of multiple bullet wounds in the head and body. Superintendent Antonio Rivera, public information officer of the Davao City police office, said police were investigating. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Schools can only suspend classes once

MANILA, Philippines—Even the Department of Health has had enough of school suspensions because of the Influenza A(H1N1) virus. Stressing that the new virus was "generally mild" though it was spreading fast, the DOH revised its response guidelines for schools confronted with confirmed swine flu cases among their students and staff. Under the amended Interim Guidelines No. 18, schools with confirmed cases can only suspend classes once. To minimize class disruption, suspensions should also be limited only to specific class sections with a confirmed case or to the affected floor level of a building. The DOH issued the revised guidelines yesterday as scores of affected schools and universities were set to end their voluntary shutdown. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

UP professor ready to run vs Arroyo

By JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA, KRISTINE L. ALAVE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—His wife and four children are all against it, but University of the Philippines professor and *Inquirer* columnist Randy David has declared that he would seriously consider running against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should she seek a seat in the House representing the second district of their home province of Pampanga in 2010.

"If she runs, I will think about it very seriously. Yes, I think so. She will not go unchallenged. She will not go unopposed; we will oppose her every step of the way," David, 63, told the Inquirer Thursday night when asked about reports that he would pit himself against the powerful President in a local showdown.

"It's probably the most foolish thing to do. I know it's quixotic to run against the President—somebody who has no qualms about using all the powers of her office—but I think somebody has to stop her. And if we get to that point, I will do my part even if that may be myself," said the sociology professor.

Brazen

David said the moves to have Ms Arroyo run for a seat in Congress and to hammer out Charter change toward a shift to the parliamentary system were a "brazen" way of circumventing the constitutional ban on presidential reelection.

Under a parliamentary system, the prime minister is the head of state, he pointed out.

"I think what she is doing is really too much, and they have to be stopped," he said.

David said that while the people of Pampanga were proud to have the President come from the province, this was not a justification for her to prolong her stay in power.

"I belong to the second district and we will not take this [candidacy] sitting down," he declared.

David said Ms Arroyo had been frequenting Pampanga recently, distributing checks and food—"precisely the worst aspects of patronage politics."

He said running against Ms Arroyo would also provide the opportunity to grill her on the corruption scandals hounding her administration.

"I will be very happy to challenge her to a debate and let the people know the answers to the many questions about this administration," he said.

Most unpopular

On a national scale, David said running against Ms Arroyo would be "the easiest thing in the world because she is the most unpopular President."

But when it came down to local politics, he acknowledged that he probably did not stand a chance against her.

Asked where he would get the resources to run against the President, if and when, he chuckled and said: "I don't know. Maybe if you run, the resources will come."

He said he had not talked with Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio about his plan or whether they would form an alliance against the President and her son, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the incumbent representative of Pampanga who has announced plans to run for governor against the priest-turned-politician.

David said his wife, former Civil Service Commission head Karina Constantino-David, and their four children, as well as his siblings, were vehemently against his running.

Weekend reunion in Betis

But should Ms Arroyo file her candidacy for congresswoman, "I will sit down and talk to my brothers and sisters and my wife and children and tell them 'Eto na ang kinatatakutan natin (This is what we have feared),'" he said.

David said his father, Fiscal Pedro David, who was a lawyer of the Liberal Party, was close to Ms Arroyo's late father, President Diosdado Macapagal. As early as when Diosdado Macapagal was a congressman, he was a frequent visitor at the David residence in Betis.

David said he did not get close to Ms Arroyo because she did not live in Pampanga.

He himself has been going home to Betis every Sunday on his motorcycle for weekend family reunions, he said.

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More Filipino teachers off to jobs abroad

By PHILIP TUBEZA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The exodus of Filipino teachers to other countries is expected to continue in the coming years, according to a labor group.

The Public Services Labor Independent Confederation said on Wednesday two places were the likely magnets for Filipino teachers—the United States, which would need two million teachers in the coming decade, and Arab countries, which would need at least 450,000 teachers.

The group said teacher shortages, growing populations, and expanding educational systems in many other countries coupled with the dismal work conditions and salaries at home could push local teachers to go abroad.

"Demand for teachers across the United States continues to remain high even if the North American country's economy is in a deep recession," said Annie Enriquez-Geron, PSLINK general secretary.

"There are estimates that the United States will need to employ an additional two million teachers in the coming decade to maintain its current educational standards and closer to three million if it strives to improve them in order to stay globally competitive," she added.

Geron said more than 10,000 foreign teachers are recruited by the United States every year to fill its demand.

"There is also very high demand for new science and math teachers in the U.S. with estimates by the Business-Higher Education Forum in Washington putting the figure at 200,000 at the least," she added.

In the last 10 years, around 4,000 Filipino teachers—mostly math, science, English, and special education teachers—left the country. This figure included only new hires for teaching jobs and did not include those who left the country for work other than teaching, the paper said.

The top destinations were the United States, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, the paper added.

According to a U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization study, Geron said, the Arab states will face "the greatest teacher shortage in the drive to provide every child with a primary education by 2015 as the region will need to raise the current stock by 26 percent and create another 450,000 teaching posts in less than a decade."

"As more developed countries face a graying workforce, they are increasingly resorting to the recruitment of skilled teachers from less developed countries. This phenomenon had already been foreseen by (European) countries since the '90s, warning that aging teaching forces may eventually lead to shortages," Geron said.

"For instance, more than 60 percent of all primary teachers are over 40 years of age in Canada, Italy, and the Netherlands; and more than 40 percent are over 50 years old in Germany and Sweden," she said.

Geron said another factor contributing to teacher shortages in more developed countries was the declining interest of their nationals in entering the teaching profession.

According to a survey conducted by the temporary staffing agency Manpower Inc., teaching is the second hardest job to fill in the US. Many of their nationals, the study said, would rather pursue other more financially rewarding careers than become a teacher. Low salary and unattractive working conditions were often cited as reasons not to enter the teaching profession, Geron said. (But for a teacher from a developing nation, salaries would still be significantly more than what they earn at home.)

"Unfortunately, instead of addressing employment conditions of the teaching sector, governments of more developed countries are finding it more convenient and economical to recruit migrant workers, many of whom are offered lower pay and contractual jobs that deprived them of their due benefits," she added.

Geron said the dependence on migrant skilled teachers in developed countries was leading to aggressive recruitment strategies by their governments, recruitment agencies, and the private schools themselves.

"There have even been governments which have created special agencies just to recruit teachers from other countries. Private teacher recruitment agencies in the United Kingdom have mushroomed to more than 100 while there are more or less 70 in the United States," she added.

From rural Baldwin County, Ala., to suburban Prince George's County, Md., teacher shortages are inviting an unlikely solution: hundreds of Filipino teachers, attracted by relatively high salaries, are coming to the U.S. to teach everything from math to special ed.

Saudi asked: Don't blacklist runaway workers

MANILA, Philippines—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should revoke its new immigration policy that blacklists foreign workers who run away from their usually abusive employers, an alliance of overseas Filipino workers' organizations in the Middle East said Thursday.

The new policy is discriminatory and a violation of migrant workers' rights as embodied in the United Nations Convention in the Protection of Migrants and Members of their Families, Migrante-Middle East said in an e-mail sent to media outfits.

The new policy allows the summary deportation of runaway migrant workers without the benefit of due process. Once blacklisted, they would be barred from entering the kingdom to work, said John Monterona, regional coordinator of the organization.

"It grossly disregards the fact that many foreign workers including our overseas Filipino workers run away from their employers because they are usually treated like slaves, abused and subjected to all forms of maltreatment and labor malpractices," he said.

The group, Monterona said, has already called the attention of the Philippine embassy on the issue. He said a letter has been sent to Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Antonio Villamor and Consul Ezzadin Tago, urging them to make proper representation on the issue and suggesting instead that cases of runaways be reviewed on a case by case basis.

The regional organization receives complaints and calls for help from OFWs from all over Saudi Arabia, and has on its record as of December 31, 2008, a total of 1,793 OFWs seeking repatriation. Of the number, 566 were runaways and 1,019 were in various distress situations, he said.

These OFWs, usually domestic helpers or construction workers, were forced to run away from their abusive employers because they were not properly paid, they lived and worked in unsafe environments, they worked more than eight hours but were not paid overtime. Some have sought refuge with friends while some at the Philippine embassy-run Bahay Kalinga and welfare centers, Monterona said. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

TAKE CHARGE

Money talk for newlyweds

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

Question: My husband and I have been married for only six months and already we're fighting about money. He spends money on computer equipment and personal gadgets, while I spend money on household goods, which we share. I don't want to nit pick but I feel as if a gap has opened up between us. How can I fix this?—Angela

Answer: Money problems can be a real headache, especially in a marriage. You feel that you are spending more for the two of you (by buying household goods) but your husband spends only for himself (the computer equipment and gadgets). There is indeed a communication gap, but like most gaps, this can be bridged if both parties acknowledge the problem and make an effort to address it.

Find time to sit down with your husband when he's not in a bad mood. Start by saying how much you appreciate the fact that you are now married and living together on your own (if you are indeed living on your own. The point is to start the conversation on a positive note.).

Be honest about how you feel regarding the setup in your family when it comes to spending. Begin your statements with "I" (example: I feel sad when…) instead of "You" (example: You spend too much on…). The latter one is accusing and will put your husband on defensive mode, which will not really help in resolving the conflict.

Hear his side out without interrupting. Then summarize what you both just said by saying, "So if I understand right, I feel … and you feel…" Bring the discussion to focus on your money goals for the family. Is it to save for an emergency fund, save for retirement, or save for a new home? Ask yourselves if the current setup is bringing you closer to those goals.

According to Citibank's Vice President for Consumer Education Aneth Ng-Lim, "most couples dream of having a three-bedroom house, good college education for the kids, and a vacation home in Tagaytay. But they need to take concrete steps to turn these into realities."

Brainstorm on what you both can do to take control of your money and put you on the road to reaching your financial goals. Here are some ideas:

■ Commit to have a common fund to which you will both contribute. This fund will be used to pay bills and other expenses to be incurred in running your home. Citibank's Lim suggests opening a joint checking account so you can keep this fund separate from other funds. Lim explained that having "a joint bank account will allow either one of you to have easy access to these funds."

■ Make a household budget to determine how much it costs to run your household every month. Based on your income, you can decide how much each of you should contribute to this fund. Or your husband may decide to pay everything, in which case, he should put up the total money for the budget monthly.

■ Assign one person to handle the common fund. He/she will be responsible for paying all the bills on time and making sure your spending is kept within budget.

■ Allow each one a personal fund, which can be used as he/she wants. There should be a ceiling for this fund every month, or you can make it a percentage of the take-home pay. You may use this, for instance, on spa or salon services, while he can use it for gadgets. If your husband needs to buy additional computer equipment that is over his budget for his personal fund for the month, he should save the money meant for the current month and succeeding ones until he has saved enough to buy what he wants to buy. The same goes for you.

■ Go over your household budget every month and see where you have overspent. If you have extra cash left over, decide together what to do with it. You can go out for dinner or watch a movie or save it for a bigger treat next month.

■ Make sure you prioritize essential financial expenses such as life insurance and health insurance. Shop around among insurance companies for the best insurance product that suits you. Nowadays, life insurance comes with added benefits you can choose from, among them are investment options, hospitalization coverage, return of premiums, etcetera.

■ Ensure that your family is saving up for a six- to eight-month emergency fund. This will be very handy should something unexpected happen: a job loss or illness needing hospitalization for instance.

■ Since you are already talking money, talk about retirement too. At what age do you plan to retire? Set an appointment with a financial planner to discuss the many ways you can save for your retirement. With the financial planner's help, you will also be able to determine how much money you need to save between now and your retirement. Citibank is available for this discussion with you for free.

Money problems can be dealt with as long as both partners commit to be open in talking about this. Make sure that communication lines are kept open throughout your marriage as more challenges will come your way.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Vicki Belo and co-accused maintain innocence

By TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Cosmetic doctor Mari Victoria Belo Henares, popularly known as Vicki Belo, and her co-accused in the sex video scandal on Thursday asked the Department of Justice to drop the charges against them.

In her counter-affidavit, Belo maintained her innocence, saying she had no hand in the spread of the videos of her estranged lover Hayden Kho on the Internet.

Belo said her instruction on December 9, 2008 to co-respondents Eric Johnston Chua and Dr. Mark Herbert "Bistek" Rosario was clear: destroy the videos.

She said she gave them the keys to Kho's apartment to retrieve the computer containing the videos. But the computer was password protected and they could not access the files, Belo said.

At this stage, Belo said Chua told her he could find someone who could help override the password.

But she said three days after she gave them the keys on December 12, Chua came and handed in a DVD copy of Kho's steamy trysts with actress Katrina Halili and other female celebrities.

"Ayan regalo ko sa iyo," Belo said, quoting Chua. She said she got mad at him, as witnessed by her companions, co-respondent Princess Velasco and witness Jacqueline Thng.

Rosario, Velasco, and Chua also submitted their counter-affidavits, saying they too should not be held liable for violation of Republic 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Womens Act.

Chua belied Belo's claims she did not know the password, adding Belo was also present when the sex files were retrieved.

Rosario, meanwhile, said he merely helped get the computer and the video files on the request of Belo.

"My mere alleged failure to report or disclose to complainant Halili or to the authorities my knowledge of the existence of her sex videos with respondent Hayden is, by itself, totally insufficient to charge me as accessory," Rosario said.

"I did not profit or assist respondent Kho to profit from his video-recording of his sexual relations with complainant Halili," he added.

"I did not conceal or destroy the body of the crime as I did not have a participation beyond retrieving the laptop computers and external hard drives as per request of respondent Dr. Belo," Rosario said.

Rosario also defended Chua, saying he could not have possibly met Belo on December 12 as alleged by the beauty doctor.

"If only to clarify one point: on the night of December 12, 2008, respondent Princess and I had dinner with respondent Dr. Belo and Ms. Jacqueline Thng at the Silk Restaurant at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Respondent Chua was not there," Rosario said.

Cosmetic doctor Mari Victoria Belo Henares, popularly known as Vicki Belo.

Binoe-Buboy blockbuster?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Phiilippines—Viva Films is cooking up an action-comedy movie for Robin Padilla and Cesar Montano to be directed by Hollywood-trained director Alain Peñaflor and line-produced by Claire de la Fuente.

Hmm … wonder if they will swap stories off-cam about their colorful love histories. Will their movie be called "To All the Girls We Loved Before?"

Moving back?

Still on Binoe, is he moving back to ABS-CBN after "Totoy Bato" ends on GMA, or is he just going to shoot a movie with Star Cinema?

I asked for the real score from his mentor Direk Deo Fajardo. "Walang nakabitin na contract si Binoe," Deo explained. "Ang babalikan niya sa ABS ay movie project. Kung okay sa kanya TV show sa GMA, why not? Pwede rin sa ABS."

Fully recharged

Anne Curtis is fully recharged after her European holiday. "I enjoyed visiting all the historical places in Rome," gushes Anne. "I touched the walls of the Coliseum, threw coins in the Fountain of Trevi and went bridge jumping in Barcelona."

Anne, endorser of GSM Blue drink for the past five years, really knows how to live it up. "No blues for me," she says, "as long as I have GSM Blue."

Her blues after breaking up with Sam Milby are gone. "It's always great to see Sam now that I'm over him," she quips. "Since we don't get to talk as much anymore, we always have stories to tell when we bump into each other. The awkwardness is sometimes still there but in time I know we'll be back to our old comfort zone."

No hidden agenda

Marco Alcaraz is all agog over his role in "Rosalinda." "I portray Annibal, the relentless lover and admirer of Fedra,

Padilla

Montano

played by Katrina Halili," he beams. Since Kat is a damsel in distress these days, will he try to be her knight in shining armor?

"I'll definitely be there for her," he says. "But I won't date or court her. Not because of her sex video or anything else. I consider her a friend and I want it to stay that way." No Hayden, este, hidden desires whatsoever.

Piolo's charms

When Pokwang and Piolo Pascual were checking in at the airport counter in Italy, Pokie was charged for her excess baggage. But when Piolo smiled and made lambing to the airline staff, they waived the "overweight" charge. That's what Papa PJ's excessive charms can do.

Flashback mode

Maxene Magalona was on flashback mode when I asked her if she has ever loved so madly the way her character in "Kung Aagawin Mo ang Lahat Sa Akin" does. "I was once blindly in love," she recalled. "I was swept by his dreamy ways but in time I saw his true colors. From then on, I promised myself not to be all heart in a relationship."

Best advice of her late dad (FrancisM) about show biz? "He told me that no matter how rich or famous I become, I am still human just like everyone else so I shouldn't throw my weight around," she said. "And that I must never forget who I was before I became a star."

No romance

Precious Lara Quigaman shrugs off rumors that Willie Revillame is wooing her. Some months back, she was booted out of "Wowowee" because she brought along her boyfriend to their show in the United States. The buzz was that Willie had his eyes set on Precious but since she was spoken for already, it didn't sit too well with Willie.

She's now back in the show every Saturday. Now that she has split up with her longtime BF, will she give Willie (who has broken up with his GF Nadine) a chance? "Sometimes it's hard to tell when he is serious," says Lara. "Or when he's just doing it for the show. I treat Willie like a kuya and nothing else so I think the love angle is not possible." Will Willie's charms make the impossible possible?

Zsazsa would rather not confront Dong

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—She still has framed pictures of her daughter Karylle with ex-boyfriend Dingdong Dantes all over her house, admitted Zsazsa Padilla.

"One time, Dolphy (her long-time partner) asked me: 'Isn't it time you put those away? Nakakahiya naman kay K (Karylle's nickname).' I will eventually find time to do it. Kasi naman Dong was a part of the family when they were together," the singer told us during the launch of her latest album, "Unchanging Love" under Polyeast Records.

Padilla

"Show biz is such a small industry," Zsazsa said. "Dong and I are bound to run into each other soon. I pray that I don't create a scene. Unlike K, I could be confrontational. The upside of what happened to Karylle was that people realized how intelligent she is, how well she copes with certain situations. I'm happy she's finally recovered."

Zsazsa admitted she suffered from depression when her 2003 wedding with Dolphy was canceled. She was not about to go through that anytime soon, she said.

"Everything was ready. I had the wedding gown and invitations made. It was the perfect time to get married. It was a good thing I hadn't sent the invitations," said Zsazsa, who has two daughters with Dolphy—Nicole and Zia.

She said the annulment of her marriage to Karylle's father, Dr. Modesto Tatlonghari, hit another snag this year. "It's been six years... but I'm not allowed to discuss it."

Zsazsa said she found comfort, and wisdom, in the words of her youngest daughter. "Zia told me, 'You know marriage, like your songs, should bind you. It should have happened at the start of your relationship. Because you've been together for such a long time, what else do you have to prove?'"

Early marriage

The singer-actress recounted that marriage was not something she fully understood when she plunged into it at age 16: "Zia was right. In show biz, having spent twentysomething years together is something to be proud of in itself."

Karylle, who is currently in London for a show with singer Martin Nievera, had this to say earlier about her parent's impending annulment: "I just hope everything will be fine and the proceedings will finally end."

Zsazsa celebrated her 45th birthday last May 28 while on tour with Kuh Ledesma, Pops Fernandez and Regine Velasquez for their "Divas to Divas" concert series. They had 14 shows in Canada and the United States. "I spent my birthday in Texas. I ate steak by myself and wrote a blog about it," she recalled. She added that plans for Dolphy's birthday on July 25 are not yet definite.

Meanwhile, she will be busy promoting her 12-track album, her first after seven years. "I fought hard for an all-OPM lineup, but we couldn't find enough materials. My label has promised to do that for our next project," she said.

The album package offers a minus-one CD and a four-page photo book. "I look 20 years younger here," Zsazsa joked. "The wonders of Photoshop, thank you very much."

Dressed in a fuchsia ruffled mini-dress and gold pumps, Zsazsa sang four songs, including the carrier single "Hanggang," during the record launch at the Discovery Suites in Pasig City.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Filipino f-words

Officers and volunteers at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration of the Philippine Consulate General feted outgoing Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo last Monday night to a despedida dinner. Evidently, the officers had already spoken their pieces to the ConGen so the occasion was a chance for the volunteers to express their sentiments to the departing Consul General.

When the invitation was extended by Welfare Officer Rey Tayag with the caveat that one needed to be prepared with words to address the ConGen, I formulated in my mind two scenarios, the first one entailed a single image to capture my impression of the ConGen's style. The image of "stealth diplomat" came to mind which I then used in the evening's declaratives, and expanded in Wednesday's tribute printed in the OpEd section of this paper. It turned out to be very appropriate to the understated moderation mediated by our departing ConGen. The second one was a more elaborate address to the ConGen and the Filipino audience around the dinner table, were the setting a bit more private, and the time allotted a bit longer. I played on the 4-letter "f" words that I feel Filipinos have to contend with, four consisting of four letters and one with five.

For openers, the first four-letter word was one I heard for the first time from the Filipino-Hawaiian comedian Andy Bumatai in the 70s. The Filipino of Hawaii was previously referred to as the *Flip*, not too distant from the Chinese neighbor who is the *Chink*. Bumatai relates that he really felt discriminated against when he saw the sign by the poolside of a prestigious hotel where one of his parents worked that said: "No Running, No Flipping!"

Racial discrimination is, of course, not foreign to the Filipinos in the Marianas. Ten years ago, on the way over from Hawaii, I was advised not to wear a *barong* on entry and always identify myself as being from Hawaii. Then I heard the story about Guv Froilan telling his constituents that if they do not like Filipinos, they should look closer at themselves in the mirror. The DNA shows more than being close cousins; there is scientific evidence of kinship from a common lineage.

The ConGen, often caught being flippant and self-depreciating makes him an original Flip! But he never hesitated to call a spade, a spade, when one's racial identity had the appearance of being maligned.

Then there is the holy grail of many *mahal na likha—Fame***.** The popularity of Manny Pacquiao is not just because he is a sport's hero. It stems from the vicarious experience of a whole nation in Manny's triumph on the other side of the ignominy of a world that thumbs its nose in identifying Filipinos with housemaids and menial laborers rather than as professionals like the numerous nurses and medical practitioners in every nook and cranny of this planet.

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

To begin with, every Filipino family longs to be certificated. *Caratulas* outside people's homes in the provinces still declare that so-and-so son and/or daughter is a lawyer, accountant or medical practitioner. We must be the only social entity that uses the abbreviation "Arch" for "architect." Nothing nourishes our pride more than the "Dr." attached to our names, even if it cost us but a pittance from one of the print shops on Recto Blvd. We even have bona fide businesses in the major cities who will tell someone that they had been chosen to receive an outstanding award. Because the operation is non-profit, the awardee needs to contribute to the night's cost, revealing the commercial nature of the enterprise. The ConGen pretty much eschewed the allure of fame.

Face is the Orient's standard for social relationships and discourses. *Ano na lang ang sasabihin nila?* is an oft-stated lament of many a social climber. Face is the Oriental sense is different from the sense of honor and respect that came with the Iberian influence, but marry the two and one has a formula for a *raison d'etre* that springs eternal in guiding behavior, particularly in regulating sexual reputation.

The ConGen participated in communal rites and rituals that accrued to the function of his office, but one has the impression that he valued the background position more than the forefront.

The currency for Filipino lines of relationships is the *favor***.** Currying for favors is the common fare for determining the depth and breath of our relatedness. The favor does not emanate from an altruistic sense of meeting the need of the other; it is rather the instrument of establishing lines of reciprocity. The depth of gratitude, *utang na loob,* is the most potent form of indebtedness, a feature of Filipino networking, and the defining virtue in politics and economics. The social stratification in Filipino society is built on the carefully crafted architecture of favors. Doing a favor expects a return on investment.

Corruption is a consequent outgrowth of extreme personification of the favor-granting process apart from societal values. The ConGen kept his diplomatic rule book close to his chest and abided by it pretty much to its letter.

The ultimate in Filipino piety is an almost absolute resignation to *Fate. Bahala na*, often compared to the Iberian *que sera sera* (what will be, will be) is also rooted on the Islamic surrender, *Anshallah,* 'God willing,' or, *Bathala Na!*

Social activists in our ranks are often frustrated when a call is made to gather support for a cause and a display of bodily presence in a picket line might elicit a verbal assent, but the pull of the blaring boombox over charcoal barbecue along Beach Road is a more forceful magnet than getting the emotions stirred up by Tina Sablan's gracious eloquence in the village commons.

The ConGen's office on the fifth floor of the old Nauru building is littered with quotes pushing for the need to make responsible choices as a function of being human in our time, leaving fate in the entertainment page following the horoscopes.

How the Flip relates to the aforementioned F-words is an identifying mark. Come to think of it, does it not similarly apply to our Chamolinian *primas* and *primos*? Since I now prefer to be called a world-wise street-smart Pinoy, I will now have to think of the five 5-letter P-words to pepper my next discourse.

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

EDITORIAL

Killing Tatay

Private First Class Apolonio Pacioles was home from the battlefield. He had managed to go on leave—from the Army's 54th Infantry Battalion, based currently somewhere in Mindanao—just in time for Father's Day. He returned to his house in Quezon City on Saturday, and he was up early the following day. At about 6am, he asked his 5-year-old son to do something for him: fetch his service firearm for him.

A poignant passage in news reports tells the rest of the story. "Despite his young age, the boy already knew how to handle a gun, having been taught by his father. 'But apparently, the boy was not able to take out all the bullets and one was left [in the chamber],' [a police officer] said." After the son had removed the magazine, "Pacioles ignored the boy who then cocked the gun's hammer with his finger on the trigger and shot his 45-year-old father in the abdomen."

The ironies at the center of this domestic tragedy tug at the heart.

■ The father survived postings in actual combat zones; he died in an accident, in his own living room.

■ He taught his son how to handle guns from a tender age; he became a victim of the very lessons his son learned from him. (A little learning is truly a dangerous thing.)

■ The father asked his son for help, one of those simple chores that a dutiful child willingly, even gladly, does. (We can imagine the child doing it with even more gusto, early that Father's Day.) His son accidentally killed him in the very act of obeying.

■ He taught his son how to handle a gun; he didn't teach him the most vital lesson of all: Guns kill.

We commiserate with the Pacioles family; the mother was grazed by the bullet too, and we fear the boy may be scarred for life. It is difficult to imagine the personal hell they are going through.

While it would be difficult and perhaps undesirable to pass legislation that would make it a crime for parents or older relatives or even coaches to teach children below a certain age how to handle guns, we must still find a way to discourage the handling of guns by persons who cannot be sufficiently safety-conscious. A 5-year-old may have the practical dexterity to remove a magazine, but we doubt if he has the psychological maturity to know that playing with a gun or pulling a gun's trigger must be preceded by an analysis of risk.

That analysis of risk includes not only checking whether the gun user has done all he can to make sure that the gun is safe, but also making allowance for the possibility of accidents, mechanical or otherwise.

On both counts, we think that a child below the age of reason, no matter how favored or devoted, is simply not ready to run that kind of risk.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

'O-sei san'

My publisher has almost given up on my book *13 Women: The Loves of Jose Rizal* because it has been "in progress" for almost two decades. I hope to polish the drafts and tie the loose ends to have the book ready for publication this year. What has kept it in my drawer was my frustration over the lack of the most basic biographical information.

Every student in the Philippines can name all or a few of the women of Rizal, but when pushed a bit further he will admit that he knows little about the person. These women only figure in our history because of their association with Rizal. Surely, they were not mere footnotes in the life of our national hero, but had lives of their own. What were they like before or after their relationship with Rizal? When and where were they born? What happened to them after Rizal's execution? When and where did they die?

One of the tips passed on to me by the late Esteban de Ocampo and E. Arsenio Manuel is to work in cemeteries in search of tombstones with dates of birth and death. Josephine Bracken was buried in Happy Valley Cemetery in Hong Kong, but nobody has been able to find her common grave or the record of her internment. When the threat of swine flu is lowered and the weather in Hong Kong becomes more agreeable, I will try my luck.

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

British historian Jim Richardson has been combing census records, now available online, and he has found Gertrude "Tottie" Beckett in the 1911 census, then 42 years old and living with her parents in Southall and not in the townhouse in Chalcot Crescent where Rizal rented a room in the attic. Dr. Richardson has found the year of birth, 1869, and place of birth Ely, Cambridgeshire, but other details about her will require a dedicated and patient search in the census records.

Last week Sophia University professor Takefumi Terada showed me the Rizal bust in Hibiya Park, just across the Imperial Hotel, and accompanied me to Zoshigaya Reien (literally, Zoshigaya spirit garden/cemetery) on the outskirts of Tokyo's commercial and business district to the grave of the woman all Filipinos know as "O-sei san."

We visited these two historical sites on June 18, a day before Rizal's 148th birthday, and I was disappointed that nobody from the Knights of Rizal or our embassy had spruced it up or left flowers. Rizal's bust in Hibiya park was ornamented by bird droppings and O-sei san's grave had weeds growing all over it, making me wonder what happened to her grandson, who was said in the 1950s to be a Japanese diplomat assigned in Switzerland. Maybe she had great-grandchildren, but do they visit her grave? Have they been told that her brief relationship with Rizal is one of the highlights of Philippine-Japan relations.

Terada-sensei came armed with a map of the Zoshigaya cemetery and a photocopy of an obscure newsletter that seems to be dedicated to people buried there. This newsletter had a long and detailed article on O-sei san, complete with pictures. Terada-sensei was kind enough to translate the material, and so far this is as far as we can go on O-sei san.

Her full name was Usui Seiko, her nickname was "O-sei" from Seiko. The Usui family came from Chiba near the present Narita Airport outside downtown Tokyo. Her father was a veteran samurai who turned to business and ran a trading store in Yokohama. Seiko's older brother was killed in Ueno during the Shogitai revolt against the Meiji. To provide Seiko with a playmate, her parents adopted an orphan from Nagasaki named Yoshi.

Seiko had an upbringing that gave her fluency in English and a bit of French. She was described as shy yet she served as Rizal's interpreter, and accompanied him on sightseeing trips around Japan. Being a woman of "high culture," she introduced Rizal to Japanese culture teaching him to write Japanese characters and paint in the Japanese-style.

After Rizal, she married Alfred Charlton (b. 13 August 1859 Liverpool; d. 2 November 1915) who was an English teacher in the First High School, then the Yamaguchi High School in Imaguchi, and later taught chemistry in the prestigious Gakushuin High School. He was decorated with the Japanese Order of Merit, 5th class, indicated on his tombstone.

Charlton and Seiko had a daughter named Yuriko who married the son of a senator named Yoshiharu Takiguchi. They had a son (no name) who was a Japanese diplomat assigned in Geneva.

Seiko never told anyone about her friendship with Rizal, until the 1950s when Filipino researchers tracked down her stepsister Yoshi who said Seiko collected Philippine stamps and cherished those which had Rizal's picture. Her stamp collection and any mementos left by Rizal were destroyed during the bombing of Tokyo in 1944.

After her home in Shinjuku was destroyed, Seiko moved to Hagi, west of Yamaguchi, where she died on May 1, 1947 at the age of 80.

Seiko's grave has a large piece of stone that has the initials "A.C" on top. The Japanese text reads "Alfred Charlton, Order of Merit 5th class, and wife Seiko." There is a small crooked tombstone beside that of Seiko and Alfred's that marks the grave of Usui Yoshida who was interviewed by the Filipino historians and researchers in the 1950s.

This is where the trail ends. It isn't much to go on, but it gives us a better idea of who she was, what she was like, and perhaps helps us understand what was in her that Rizal found attractive.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

RP stars celebrate Independence Day with Fil-Ams

By MARCONI CALINDAS
CORRESPONDENT

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Filipino celebrities led by superstar Nora Aunor graced this year's 111th Philippine Independence Day celebration in the heart of San Francisco City in California.

Aunor's star wattage hasn't dimmed, with over 3,000 Filipino-American fans from as far as Los Gatos, California, coming to the San Francisco Civic Center Plaza to see her sing.

Aunor, who is now based in Los Angeles, was joined at the event by Philippine-based celebrities Richard Gomez, Heart Evangelista, Lucy Torres, Charlie Green, Rey Kilay and Deborah. California-based Filipino entertainers such as Rin on the Rox, Coro de Sta. Ana, Cursoleine, and Drop N'Harmony also graced the event.

Fiesta Filipina USA, an organization that produces various Filipino community events and festivals in the U.S., organized the event. Fiesta Filipina USA is a Filipino-owned company based in the Bay Area that aims to promote and uphold the Filipino culture and values in the U.S. Fiesta Filipina chair Jeff Alipio presented plaques of appreciation to the Filipino celebrities that flew in from Manila for the annual celebration.

Britain's Got Talent finalist Charlie Green sings to 3,000 Filipino-Americans during the recently concluded Filipino Fiesta, a celebration of the 111th year of Philippine Independence held at the Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco, California.
MARCONI CALINDAS

Heart Evangelista sings for the crowd at the Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco, California.
MARCONI CALINDAS

Philippine superstar and multi-awarded actress Nora Aunor sings during the Filipino Fiesta, a celebration of the 111th year of Philippine Independence held at the Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco, California.
MARCONI CALINDAS

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings to Dandan Bacalso, who celebrated his 8th birthday last Sunday, June 21, 2009, at the Kilili Pavilion. May you have many many more birthdays to come. Greetings coming from Mom and Dad.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday celebrant Dandan Bacalso poses with his mom Cora and dad Danny during his birthday celebration on Sunday, June 21, 2009, at the Kilili Pavilion.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy first birthday to Wil-Leina Antonette L. Cabrera. We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Leyanna, Tun, Leilani and the family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to the greatest mom, Antonia B. Manibusan! We pray that you enjoy your special day. We love you! Greetings come from the whole Blas-Manibusan family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 9th birthday to Leyanna Marie L. Cabrera. Have a great day and we love you. Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Tun, Leilani, and Wil-Leina.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings to Maria Grace Ann Vendiola, who celebrated her 6th birthday last Saturday, June 20, 2009, at her parents' residence in As Lito, Saipan. May the good Lord shower you with more blessings and more birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings come from mom Marlene and dad Fred.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday celebrant Maria Grace Ann Vendiola, second from left, is joined by, from left, her brother Boboy, Jolo and D.A. Puri, andAyana Cristel Nunez.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young Style

Hot toys for summer

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

School's out and it's time to play. Whether your summer plans include an exotic vacation, a trip to Grandma's or just a ton of outdoor time, you want some good toys to enjoy during your school-free months. We've found some cool new ideas that are sure to be a hit, as well as some familiar toys that have been reintroduced with a fun twist. For example, if you're going to play with a ball outside, why not play with one that can bounce 75 feet in the air? We knocked out a few ceiling tiles here at KidsPost "testing" it for you. (These toys are widely available, except where noted.)

THE WASHINGTON POST
If you're going to play with a ball outside, why not play with one that can bounce 75 feet in the air? The bounce in these Sky Balls ($9 each) is incredible.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Here are familiar toys reintroduced with a fun twist. Boggle's travel version, $15, with everything in one simple, sealed case, and Water Splashers Water Bombs, $3 for 175 balloons, with a clever attachment that fits directly on a hose.

Outside Play

Fortamajig, Happy Kid Co., 6+, $70. (Available at www.thehappykidcompany.com.) Build a tent, fort, clubhouse or just a sunshade with this eight-foot square of high-quality tent material loaded with fasteners and loops. It's great for indoor forts, too, because it's so lightweight.

Maxi Kick Scooter, Kickboard USA, 6-10, $150. This super-smooth scooter is more like a skateboard: There's a handle for balance and an excellent brake, but you lean your body to steer it. Even with double wheels in the front that add the stability of a skateboard, this scooter has a high cool factor.

THE WASHINGTON POST
These are great options if you've had your fill of Uno. Scrabble Slam and Skip-Bo (both about $7) are quick and fun for the whole family.

Sky Ball, Maui Toys, all ages, $9. This ball looks like any other mid-size bouncy ball—until it pops up over your head. The bounce in this ball is incredible, so get your friends together and see who can make it go the highest.

Wind Chaser Stunt Kite, Spin Master, 8+, $30. If you've never been able to do much more with a kite than barely get it airborne, you'll like this version's built-in stunt action. The controller at the end of the line makes the kite dip and dive! You'll need a pretty windy day for this one, though!

Outdoor Water Play

AquaGlider, Zing Toys, 5+, $10. (Available at www.aquaglider.us.) For every foot deep it is released, this cool glider will travel 10 feet through water. (Release it three feet down, and watch it glide for 30!) Adjustable wings make it curve or go straight.

Submergency, Swimways, 6+, $20. Set this ball to float, sink or suspend in the middle of the water, then get to it before its timer goes off with an alarm that you can hear underwater. You can set the timer for 15 to 90 seconds.

Turbo Fill Blasters, Fisher-Price, 3-12, $35 (one gun, one filler) or $50 (two guns, one filler).

Water Splashers Water Bombs, Imperial Toy, 8+, $3 (for 175 balloons). The least fun part of outdoor water games is refilling your ammunition, whether you're using a blaster or a balloon. With clever attachments that fit directly on a hose, these toys make the task quick and easy, allowing nonstop water-fight fun.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Here's a cool new toy idea that is sure to be a hit. For every foot deep it is released, the AquaGlider ($10) will travel 10 feet through water.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Build a tent, fort, clubhouse or just a sunshade with the Fortamajig ($70), an eight-foot square of high-quality tent material loaded with fasteners and loops.

Great for Travel

Motion and Sing Scene TV Games, Jakks Pacific, 5-10, $30. These are a huge step up for plug-and-play TV games and are easy to take along for a rainy day. The microphone loads a fun singing game on your TV with 20 pop or country songs. The motion-sensing controller gives Wii-style control (it's not wireless, though) over the action on-screen.

TRIPtivities, Klutz, 8+, $10. The people at Klutz put it this way: "The world has a deep and unquenchable need for kid-friendly travel toys." So they've released a new edition of their travel activity book full of brainteasers, puzzles, tricks and games that will keep you busy for hours.

Cards to Take Along

Boggle, Hasbro, 8+, $15. A fantastic revision of the original word-search game, with everything in one simple, sealed case, plus a built-in timer and smart turning mechanism that "sets" the letters after you shake them.

Scrabble Slam, Hasbro, 8+, from $7. Skip-Bo, Mattel, 7+, about $7. These are great options if you've had your fill of Uno. In Scrabble Slam, you're constantly trying to change the word in play by adding your own card on top of one of the letters, for example, changing "plum" to "plus." In Skip-Bo, you try to get rid of your cards by placing them in sequence on four piles. Both games are quick and fun for the whole family.

Tic Tac Chec, Dream Green, 6+, $19. (Available at www.dreamgreen.org.) This game is a cross between tic-tac-toe and chess. The object is to get your four pieces in a row, but you learn the basic rules of chess to get there. The high-quality wood travel game comes in a convenient zipper case.

f you've never done much more with a kite than get it airborne, you'll like the built-in stunt action of the Wind Chaser Stunt Kite ($30). The controller at the end of the line makes the kite dip and dive.

THE WASHINGTON POST

With peanut butter in its mouth, a flying squirrel goes airborne at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, Va. It would be more accurate to call these nocturnal animals gliding squirrels.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Ever wondered if squirrels can fly?

By STEPHEN LOWMAN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Do you plan on seeing "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" when it opens next month? It's the third "Ice Age" movie, and it has a new character who is a flying squirrel named Scratte. But do flying squirrels actually exist?

Yes, and you don't even have to travel to another continent or exotic island to see them. Lots of them live in the woods in North America.

Before we tell you where you can spot them, you should know that the "flying" part of flying squirrel is not quite correct. It would be more accurate to call them gliding squirrels. Unlike birds, flying squirrels do not have wings. Instead they have a loose flap of skin, called the patagium (pronounced pah-TAY-gee-um), that runs from the wrist to the ankle on both sides of their body. When they leap from a tree they spread their legs, stretching the patagium. This allows the squirrel to catch the air like a hang glider. By loosening and tightening the skin flaps the squirrel can change direction in the air.

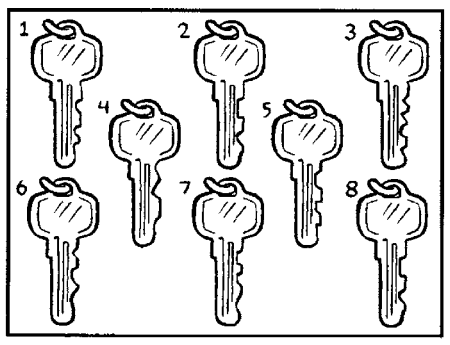
How far can they glide? KidsPost spoke with Tina Stachura, a park naturalist at the Brookside Nature Center in Wheaton, Md., to find out. She said the general rule is that for every vertical foot up they are they can glide three feet horizontally. Think about it this way: If a flying squirrel is 100 feet up in a tree it can jump off and glide 300 feet. That's about the length of a football field!

There are 43 species of flying squirrels. Two species, the southern flying squirrel and the northern flying squirrel, live in the mid-Atlantic area. "If you see gray squirrels in your neighborhood then you probably also have flying squirrels," Stachura said.

Flying squirrels are smaller than gray squirrels. They also have larger eyes because, unlike gray squirrels, flying squirrels are nocturnal. That means they come out from their nests and tree holes mostly at night. The larger eyes help them see in the dark, and they have much to watch out for. Birds, foxes, raccoons and house cats all would like to eat them for dinner!

Stachura says one of the most interesting things about flying squirrels is that they can be carnivorous. In addition to eating the usual nuts and seeds, female flying squirrels sometimes eat small birds and bird eggs to gain protein when they are nursing their young.

So you don't need to be in a movie theater to see a flying squirrel. When you're out in the woods at night this summer, look up. You just may see one doing its acrobatic tricks overhead!

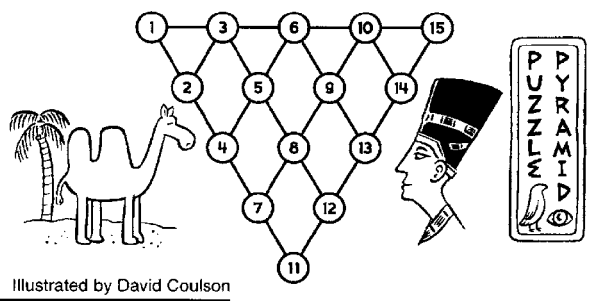


MIX AND MATCH! Can you spot the two keys that are exactly alike?

Answer: Keys 2 and 8.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

ODD WORD OUT!
To the right is a list of five words. Can you figure out which word doesn't belong on the list?

Answer: Raining. The other words all contain the name of a cereal grain. (1. Corn. 3. Oats. 4. Rye. 5. Wheat.)

THE GREAT PUZZLE PYRAMID
Here's a problem that should keep you busy for hours. On our puzzle board, place 14 coins on all of the circles except No. 6. Now, jumping one coin over another along the lines, as you would in checkers, and removing the jumped-over coin, try to remove every coin from the board except one. As an extra challenge, try to leave the last coin in circle No. 6.

One answer: 4 to 6, 11 to 4, 12 to 5, 2 to 7, 6 to 4, 7 to 2, 1 to 4, 10 to 8, 14 to 12, 12 to 5, 4 to 6, 3 to 10, 15 to 6.

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "STIFLE." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.

S		O	
T	A		E
I			R
F		O	Y
L			
E			

Answers: (Across) Foe, ale, sir, toy. (Down) Fast, olio, eery.

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Owner won't take cat to see vet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My girlfriend "Lisa" has a 9-year-old cat that hasn't been to a vet since it was spayed about eight and half years ago. "Socks" vomits almost daily, sometimes two to three times a day. We've tried different types, brands and amounts of foods. The water is city tap. The dishes are cleaned regularly. When I had my dog, I took her in once a year for her yearly checkup and any needed shots (rabies, etc.).

Lisa says, "It's my cat. It doesn't go outside." I'm tired of arguing with her. But I feel sorry for the cat. Money and/or time to take it is not an issue here. What are your vet visit recommendations for a cat in general and for one that vomits? —John in Dover, N.Y.

DEAR JOHN: Just like your dog, Lisa's cat should be taken to the veterinarian once a year for a checkup. It's not just about getting vaccinations updated; the vet also checks for hidden health problems.

Cats are extremely good at hiding illness. Senior cats can develop illnesses like heart disease, diabetes and so on that have nothing to do with going outside. And Socks is definitely entering "senior" status at 9 years of age. So the frequent vomiting could be more than just a reaction to the type of food being given.

Whether anything is wrong or not, Socks needs to get to a vet and be looked at. I know this could cause discord in your relationship, but I recommend that you take Socks in for that checkup. Don't argue with Lisa, don't use this as a point of contention, just put Socks into a travel crate and go as soon as possible.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American novelist, actor and politician Gore Vidal who made the following observation: "Today's public figures can no longer write their own speeches or books, and there is some evidence that they can't read them either."

■ Saba, an island in the Dutch West Indies, is the only place in the Caribbean whose native population is predominantly blonde.

■ In Bohemia—once a country, now a region within the Czech Republic—it was illegal in the 15th century to sell hops outside the country. In fact, it was considered such a heinous crime that the punishment for violating the law was death.

■ The very first 9-1-1 emergency call was made on Feb. 16, 1968, in the small town of Haleyville, Ala. It commemorates the event every year with a 9-1-1 festival.

■ Vinegar will dissolve the shell of a hard-boiled egg.

■ Those who study such things claim that between 10 percent and 20 percent of the Union Army during the Civil War was under the age of 18. Records show that 127 of those soldiers enlisted at the tender age of 13.

■ Are you a somniloquist? You may be one without realizing it—just ask your significant other if you're not sure. He or she should be able to tell you if you have a habit of talking in your sleep.

■ Much has been made of the epidemic of obesity in the United States. One study of the problem has turned up the following interesting comparison: It seems that the average portion of food served in America is 25 percent larger than that served in France.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Society is like a stew. If you don't keep it stirred up you get a lot of scum on the top."—Edward Abbey

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MAGIC MAZE ● PORTLY WORDS

O	A	I	T	Q	T	N	T	K	I	F	C	Z	W	U
R	P	I	M	P	O	R	T	A	N	C	E	T	M	T
J	H	E	R	P	O	C	O	Z	X	U	S	R	R	S
Q	N	L	J	P	O	G	L	P	E	C	Z	O	X	T
V	T	R	W	P	O	R	O	A	N	N	P	P	L	R
J	H	E	X	P	O	R	T	A	G	E	E	S	C	O
A	N	Y	W	V	T	T	T	S	L	U	V	N	R	P
P	N	L	K	I	I	G	E	E	C	B	T	A	Z	S
X	W	U	C	S	R	O	T	R	O	P	E	R	D	S
P	O	O	M	L	J	I	G	E	D	B	A	T	O	A
Y	X	W	U	T	S	Q	P	Y	A	R	T	R	O	P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Airport	Newport	Porto	Sports
Davenport	Passport	Portray	Teleport
Importance	Portage	Portugal	Transport
Imports	Portico	Report	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	–		x		20
+		x		+	
	x		–		13
x		+		+	
	x		+		16
13		15		20	

1 2 3 5 6 7 7 8 9

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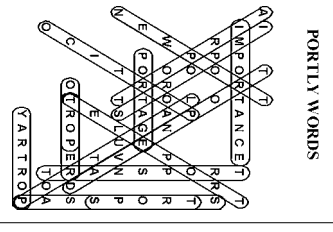
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

16	7	+	9	x	1
13	8	–	3	x	7
20	5	x	2	–	6

Fishing for ideas for outdoor fun

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

It doesn't take much to get kids hooked on fishing. If your children are tipping the scales in favor of going fishing for your family outings, put your local fishing opener on your calendar this month and make your plans. But before your kids hit the dock or climb aboard a boat, there are a few things to do to prepare for this fun family sport.

Safety first:

■ Check to see if life vests fit your kids properly this year. Remind them to wear vests at all times while near water.

■ Use a metal file to remove barbs from fishing hooks that young anglers will be using. This precaution can help avoid serious injury to the skin, as well as prevent snags in clothing.

■ Pick up a bottle of good-quality sunscreen, and have hats with visors for everyone.

Fishing fun:

■ Practice casting the fishing line without a hook in the backyard or at a park. Substitute a piece of hook-and-loop fastener such as Velcro attached to a weighted end of the hook. Place small toys with pieces of matching Velcro attached to them on the lawn. Try to "fish" for the toys.

■ Make a pint-size tackle box from a cardboard egg carton. Fill the spaces with useful items such as a bobber, canned or fresh corn kernels for bait, and some mini peanut-butter sandwiches in case the angler gets hungry for a snack. Use brass fasteners to attach fabric or leather strips on top of the carton to make it an easy carryall.

Extra tip: Outwit the worms!

The common way to transport worms and dirt to the fishing hole is with a small tin can with a plastic snap-on lid. But when it comes time to bait the hook, the worms are usually hiding at the bottom of the container. Here's an easy solution: Before scooping worms and dirt into the can, remove the bottom with a can opener and snap on another tight-fitting plastic lid. Your kids can open either end when it comes time to fish and can easily find the bait. (Remember to poke holes in the plastic lids to allow air in the can.)

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

News of Jackson's death first spread online

JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a where-were-you moment in a digital age. Michael Jackson's death was not learned from a fatherly TV news anchor. Instead, the news first spread online.

Some of the initial reports from various outlets were confusing: Was Jackson still alive? Was he in a coma? They spread like wildfire across news sites, social media networks and Twitter.

The celebrity Web site TMZ.com. site broke the news of Jackson's death at 5:20 p.m. Thursday.

It was a huge scoop for the AOL-owned TMZ, though many did not believe TMZ's report until it was matched by more established news organizations.

"Everything starts with a tip," said Harvey Levin, managing editor of TMZ. "We wouldn't have put it up if we weren't positive."

Jackson's death was confirmed by the Los Angeles Times and then The Associated Press just minutes before the nightly network news began. The anchors relayed the news at the top of their broadcasts, though CBS and ABC quickly moved on to their prepared obituaries for Farrah Fawcett, who died earlier Thursday.

MTV, the channel that had so much to do with Jackson's incredible rise to fame, played Jackson's iconic music videos "Beat It" and "Thriller," and continued with a Jackson marathon.

Jackson dominated the discussion on Twitter, generating the most tweets per second since Barack Obama was elected president in November.

"We saw over twice the normal tweets per second the moment the story broke as people shared their grief and memories," Twitter co-founder Biz Stone said in an e-mail.

The tweeting tripped up Twitter briefly, but engineers quickly responded to keep the service running. At times Thursday night, Jackson-related search topics were the most popular on the site.

Celebrity users on Twitter — including Lindsay Lohan, Ashton Kutcher, John Mayer, Ryan Seacrest and ?uestlove of the Roots — posted their remembrances.

AP

Fans hold up a sea of single gloved hands in an impromptu celebration of the life of Michael Jackson, outside UCLA Medical Center after he was pronounced dead there in Los Angeles Thursday, June 25, 2009.

"I will be mourning my friend, brother, mentor and inspiration," tweeted MC Hammer. "He gave me and my family hope. I would never have been me without him."

Comedian Rob Corddry, the former "Daily Show" correspondent, joked: "I wish it had been Michael Jackson that broke the story of TMZ dying."

Others sought to corrupt the memorializing of Jackson. A false rumor was spread that actor Jeff Goldblum had died. His publicist had to release a statement saying that Goldblum was fine.

Blogger Perez Hilton also caused a stir when he initially doubted that Jackson had gone into cardiac arrest. In a post since removed from PerezHilton.com, the blogger speculated that Jackson was pulling a stunt. (Hilton didn't immediately return an e-mail requesting comment late Thursday.)

Akamai's Net Usage Index, which monitors global news consumption online, found that Web traffic to news sites increased by about 50 percent, peaking around 6:30 p.m.

So many people wanted to verify the early reports of Jackson's death that the computers running Google's news section interpreted the fusillade of "Michael Jackson" requests as an automated attack from about 5:40 p.m. through 6:15 p.m.

As a defense mechanism, Google's news section responded to requests for information about Michael Jackson with squiggly letters known as a "captcha." Just as online ticket buyers regularly do to complete their purchases, the Michael Jackson searchers had to enter the letters correctly to see Google's new results.

Searches made through Google's main search engine were unaffected, according to company spokesman Gabriel Stricker.

On YouTube, traffic flowed to music videos of Jackson, while thousands posted videos of themselves sharing their thoughts on Jackson.

On the Google Inc.-owned YouTube, traffic flowed to music videos of Jackson, while thousands posted videos of themselves sharing their thoughts on Jackson.

Others were using Facebook to organize vigils and celebrations of Jackson. One in San Francisco with nearly 50 confirmed guests hoped to recreated the "Thriller" dance.

Within a few hours of the news of Jackson's death, his 1982 album "Thriller" was the No. 1 album on iTunes. Several of his discs were also in the top 10 of the digital store.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

A selected discography of Michael Jackson's music:

No. 1 songs:

"Ben," 1972.
"Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough," 1979.
"Rock With You," 1980.
"The Girl Is Mine," 1982.
"Beat it," 1983.
"Billie Jean," 1983.
"Say Say Say," 1983.
"Bad," 1987.
"I Just Can't Stop Loving You," 1987.
"The Way You Make Me Feel," 1987.
"Dirty Diana," 1988.
"Man In The Mirror," 1988.
"Black Or White," 1991.
"You Are Not Alone," 1995.

Solo albums:

"Got To Be There," 1972.
"Ben," 1972.
"Music & Me," 1973.
"Forever, Michael," 1975.
"Off The Wall," 1979.
"Thriller," 1982.
"Bad," 1987.
"Dangerous," 1991.
"Invincible," 2001.

"The Jackson 5" albums:

"Diana Ross Presents the Jackson 5," 1969.
"ABC," 1970.
"Third Album," 1970.
"The Jackson 5 Christmas Album," 1970.
"Goin' Back to Indiana," 1971.
"Maybe Tomorrow," 1971.
"Lookin' Through the Windows," 1972.
"Get It Together," 1973.
"In Japan!," 1973.
"Skywriter," 1973.
"Dancing Machine," 1974.
"Live!," 1974.
"Moving Violation," 1975.

"The Jacksons" albums:

"The Jacksons," 1976.
"Goin' Places," 1977.
"Destiny," 1978.
"Triumph," 1980.
"Live," 1981.
"Victory," 1984.
"2300 Jackson Street," 1989.

"We Are the World," a 1985 charity song co-written by Jackson and Lionel Richie. It reached the top of the charts, featuring the voices of Jackson, Richie, Stevie Wonder, Paul Simon, Tina Turner, Billy Joel, Diana Ross, Bruce Springsteen, Ray Charles and a host of others.

Jackson lived like king but died awash in debt

ALEX VEIGA
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson the singer was also Michael Jackson the billion-dollar business.

Yet after selling more than 61 million albums in the U.S. and having a decade-long attraction open at Disney theme parks, the "King of Pop" died Thursday at age 50 reportedly awash in about $400 million in debt, on the cusp of a final comeback after well over a decade of scandal.

The moonwalking pop star drove the growth of music videos, vaulting cable channel MTV into the popular mainstream after its launch in 1981. His 1982 hit "Thriller," still the second best-selling U.S. album of all time, spawned a John Landis-directed music video that MTV played every hour on the hour.

"The ratings were three or four times what they were normally every time the video came on," said Judy McGrath, the chairman and CEO of Viacom Inc.'s MTV Networks. "He was inextricably tied to the so-called MTV generation."

Five years later, "Bad" sold 22 million copies. In 1991, he signed a $65 million recording deal with Sony.

Jackson was so popular that The Walt Disney Co. hitched its wagon to his star in 1986, opening a 3-D movie at its parks called "Captain EO," executive produced by George Lucas and directed by Francis Ford Coppola. The last attraction in Paris closed 12 years later.

One of Jackson's shrewdest deals at the height of his fame in 1985 was the $47.5 million acquisition of ATV Music, which owned the copyright to songs written by the Beatles' John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The catalog provided Jackson a steady stream of income and the ability to afford a lavish lifestyle.

He bought the sprawling Neverland ranch in 1988 for $14.6 million, a fantasy-like 2,500-acre property nestled in the hills of Santa Barbara County's wine country.

But the bombshell hit in 1993 when he was accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy.

"That kind of represents the beginning of the walk down a tragic path, financially, emotionally, spiritually, psychologically, legally," said Michael Levine, his publicist at the time.

He settled with the boy's family, but other accounts of his alleged pedophilia began to emerge.

When he ran into further financial problems, he agreed to a deal with Sony in 1995 to merge ATV with Sony's library of songs and sold Sony music publishing rights for $95 million. Then in 2001, he used his half of the ATV assets as collateral to secure $200 million in loans from Bank of America.

As his financial problems continued, Jackson began to borrow large sums of money, according to a 2002 lawsuit by Union Finance & Investment Corp. that sought $12 million in unpaid fees and expenses.

In 2003, Jackson was arrested on charges that he molested another 13-year-old boy. The 2005 trial, which ultimately ended in an acquittal, brought to light more details of Jackson's strained finances.

One forensic accountant testified that the singer had an "ongoing cash crisis" and was spending $20 million to $30 million more per year than he earned.

In March of last year, the singer faced foreclosure on Neverland. He also repeatedly failed to make mortgage payments on a house in Los Angeles that had been used for years by his family.

In addition, Jackson was forced to defend himself against a slew of lawsuits in recent years, including a $7 million claim from Sheik Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the second son of the king of Bahrain.

Memorabilia auctions were frequently announced but became the subject of legal wrangling and were often canceled.

Time and again, however, Jackson found a way to wring cash out of high-value assets, borrowing tens of millions at a time or leaning on wealthy friends for advice, if not for money.

Al Khalifa, 33, took Jackson under his wing after his acquittal, moving him to the small Gulf estate and showering him with money.

In his lawsuit, Al Khalifa claimed he gave Jackson millions of dollars to help shore up his finances, cut an album, write an autobiography and subsidize his lifestyle—including more than $300,000 for a "motivational guru." The lawsuit was settled last year for an undisclosed amount. Neither the album nor book was ever produced.

Another wealthy benefactor came to Jackson's aid last year as he faced the prospect of losing Neverland in a public auction.

Billionaire Thomas Barrack, chairman and CEO of Los Angeles-based real estate investment firm Colony Capital LLC, agreed to bail out the singer and set up a joint venture with Jackson that took ownership of the vast estate.

Barrack was unavailable for comment Thursday, but referred to the singer in a statement as a "gentle, talented and compassionate man."

A final piece of the financial jigsaw puzzle fell into place in March, when billionaire Philip Anschutz' concert promotion company AEG Live announced it would promote 50 shows in London's O2 arena. Tickets sold out, and the first show of the "This is It" tour was set for July 8.

Jackson, who has won 13 Grammys, hadn't toured since 1997. His last studio album, "Invincible," was released in 2001.

But the opening date was later postponed to July 13 and some shows moved back to March 2010, fueling speculation that Jackson was suffering from health ailments that could curtail his comeback bid.

AP

In this 1977 file photo originally released by ABC, Farrah Fawcett-Majors, from the series "Charlie's Angels," is shown.

'Charlie's Angel' Farrah Fawcett, 62

LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A winsome smile, tousled hair and unfettered sensuality were Farrah Fawcett's trademarks as a sex symbol and 1970s TV star in "Charlie's Angels."

But as her life drew to a close, she captivated the public in a far different way: as a cancer patient who fought for, then surrendered, her treasured privacy to document her struggle with the disease and inspire others.

Fawcett, 62, died Thursday morning at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, nearly three years after being diagnosed with anal cancer. Ryan O'Neal, the longtime companion who returned to her side when she became ill, was with her.

"After a long and brave battle with cancer, our beloved Farrah has passed away," O'Neal said. "Although this is an extremely difficult time for her family and friends, we take comfort in the beautiful times that we shared with Farrah over the years and the knowledge that her life brought joy to so many people around the world."

In the end, Fawcett sought to offer more than that, re-emerging in the spotlight with a new gravitas.

In "Farrah's Story," which aired last month, she made public her painful treatments and dispiriting setbacks—from shaving her golden locks before chemotherapy could claim them to undergoing experimental treatments in Germany.

"Her big message to people is don't give up. No matter what they say to you, keep fighting," Alana Stewart, who filmed Fawcett as she underwent treatment, said last month. NBC estimated the May 15, 2009, broadcast drew nearly 9 million viewers.

In the documentary, she also recounted her efforts to unmask the source of leaks from her UCLA Medical Center records, which led a hospital employee to plead guilty to violating a federal privacy law for selling celebrities' information to the National Enquirer.

"There are no words to express the deep sense of loss that I feel," Stewart said Thursday. "For 30 years, Farrah was much more than a friend. She was my sister, and although I will miss her terribly, I know in my heart that she will always be there as that angel on the shoulder of everyone who loved her."

Other "Charlie's Angels" stars also paid tribute.

"Farrah had courage, she had strength, and she had faith. And now she has peace as she rests with the real angels," Jaclyn Smith said.

Said Cheryl Ladd: "She was incredibly brave, and God will be welcoming her with open arms."

Kate Jackson said she would remember Fawcett's "kindness, her cutting, dry wit and, of course, her beautiful smile. Today when you think of Farrah remember her smiling because that is exactly how she wanted to be remembered, smiling."

Fawcett became a sensation in 1976 as one-third of the crime-fighting trio in "Charlie's Angels." A poster of her in a clingy, red swimsuit sold in the millions and her full, layered hairstyle became all the rage, with girls and women across America mimicking the look.

She left the show after one season but had a flop on the big screen with "Somebody Killed Her Husband." She turned to more serious roles in the 1980s and 1990s, winning praise playing an abused wife in "The Burning Bed."

Born Feb. 2, 1947, in Corpus Christi, Texas, she was named Mary Farrah Leni Fawcett by her mother, who said she added the Farrah because it sounded good with Fawcett. As a student at the University of Texas at Austin, she was voted one of the 10 most beautiful people on the campus and her photos were eventually spotted by movie publicist David Mirisch, who suggested she pursue a film career.

She appeared in a string of commercials, including one where she shaved quarterback Joe Namath, and in such TV shows as "That Girl," ''The Flying Nun," ''I Dream of Jeannie" and "The Partridge Family."

She was diagnosed with anal cancer in 2006. According to the American Cancer Society Web site, an estimated 5,290 Americans, most of them adults over 35, will be diagnosed with that type of cancer this year, and there will be 710 deaths.

As she underwent treatment, she enlisted the help of O'Neal, who was the father of her now 24-year-old son, Redmond.

This month, O'Neal said he asked Fawcett to marry him and she agreed. They would wed "as soon as she can say yes," he said, but it never happened.

Fawcett, Jackson and Smith made up the original "Angels," the sexy, police-trained trio of martial arts experts who took their assignments from a rich, mysterious boss named Charlie (John Forsythe, who was never seen on camera but whose distinctive voice was heard on speaker phone.)

The program debuted in September 1976, the height of what some critics derisively referred to as television's "jiggle show" era, and it gave each of the actresses ample opportunity to show off their figures as they disguised themselves as hookers and strippers to solve crimes.

Backed by a clever publicity campaign, Fawcett—then billed as Farrah Fawcett-Majors because of her marriage to "The Six Million Dollar Man" star Lee Majors—quickly became the most popular Angel of all.

Her face helped sell T-shirts, lunch boxes, shampoo, wigs and even a novelty plumbing device called Farrah's faucet. Her flowing blond hair, pearly white smile and trim, shapely body made her a favorite with male viewers in particular.

The public and the show's producer, Spelling-Goldberg, were shocked when she announced after the series' first season that she was leaving television's No. 5-rated series to star in feature films. (Ladd became the new "Angel" on the series.)

But film turned out to be a platform where Fawcett was never able to duplicate her TV success. Her first star vehicle, the comedy-mystery "Somebody Killed Her Husband," flopped and Hollywood cynics cracked that it should have been titled "Somebody Killed Her Career."

The actress had also been in line to star in "Foul Play" for Columbia Pictures. But the studio opted for Goldie Hawn instead. Fawcett told the Associated Press in 1979 that Spelling-Goldberg sabotaged her, warning "all the studios that that they would be sued for damages if they employed me."

She finally reached an agreement to appear in three episodes of "Charlie's Angels" a season, an experience she called "painful."

After a short string of unsuccessful movies, Fawcett found critical success in the 1984 television movie "The Burning Bed," which earned her an Emmy nomination.

As further proof of her acting credentials, Fawcett appeared off-Broadway in "Extremities," playing a woman who seeks revenge against her attacker after being raped in her own home. She repeated the role in the 1986 film version.

Not content to continue playing victims, she switched type to take on roles as a murderous mother in the 1989 true-crime story "Small Sacrifices" and a tough lawyer on the trail of a thief in 1992's "Criminal Behavior."

She also starred in biographies of Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld and photographer Margaret Bourke-White.

In 1995, at age 50, Fawcett stirred controversy posing partly nude for Playboy magazine. The following year, she starred in a Playboy video, "All of Me," in which she was equally unclothed while she sculpted and painted.

Fawcett's most unfortunate career moment may have been a 1997 appearance on David Letterman's show, when her disjointed, rambling answers led many to speculate that she was on drugs. She denied that, blaming her strange behavior on questionable advice from her mother to be playful and have a good time.

In September 2006, Fawcett, who at 59 still maintained a strict regimen of tennis and paddleball, began to feel strangely exhausted. She underwent two weeks of tests that revealed the cancer.

"I do not want to die of this disease. So I say to God, 'It is seriously time for a miracle,'" she said in "Farrah's Story."

Girl who needs adult help swears friend to secrecy

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm 10 years old and worried about my friend "Kelly." Her father has fought in two wars and suffers from PTSD, and when he loses it, he hits her.

I really want to tell someone who can help her, but she wants to "keep it a secret." I'm afraid if I tell, my best friend will get separated from her family. What should I do?

HOPING TO HELP A FRIEND

DEAR HOPING TO HELP: Some secrets are meant to be kept, but physical abuse isn't one of them. One of the saddest things about abuse is that the victims often come to believe they deserve it because that's what the abuser tells them (This is YOUR fault—YOU made me do this!). Of course, when someone loses control, it isn't the victim's fault but rather the abuser's, because the abuser is unable to control his (or her) emotions.

There are worse things than being removed from a violent family situation, among them the risk of serious injury. That's why it's important that you tell a trusted adult what's happening to Kelly. This needs to be reported so her father can get the help he so desperately needs.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: In our school, we're not allowed to have our cell phones out or turned on, but of course, people do it anyway. Some of these students have extremely high-pitched ring tones. They are at such a frequency that the older teachers cannot hear them. Many adults do not hear the noise.

These "mosquito" tones hurt my ears, and just about everyone in the room cringes when someone gets a text message. I'm not sure what to do. The teachers are oblivious, and there are far too many cell phones out to report them all. Should I endure it until I graduate?

HATING THE INVISIBLE NOISE

DEAR HATING THE NOISE: Have a private chat with the teacher, tell him or her what's going on, and explain that the tones are a distraction in class. Then talk to some of the other students you see cringing when the "mosquitoes" start buzzing. If a number of you start visibly reacting to the noise, your teacher should notice and begin to take action.

P.S. Some electronics-savvy educators insist that all cell phones be placed on their desks when students enter the classroom.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I married in an impromptu ceremony while visiting his parents. We didn't have a ring, so his mother offered to give me the wedding ring she had inherited from her mother as a gift.

About a year ago, my husband gave me an anniversary band, which I decided to wear with the ring from my mother-in-law. However, when she heard about my new ring, she asked me to return her mother's ring. I am hurt that she wants it back because I'd like to keep it. What should I do?

TWO-RING CIRCUS

DEAR TWO-RING: First, let me tell you what not to do. Although the ring was a "gift," do not allow it to become a bone of contention. In the interest of family harmony, return it to your mother-in-law with a sweet note thanking her for letting you wear it all this time, and telling her how much that "symbol of her love and acceptance" has meant to you all these years. Maybe she'll leave it to you in her will.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

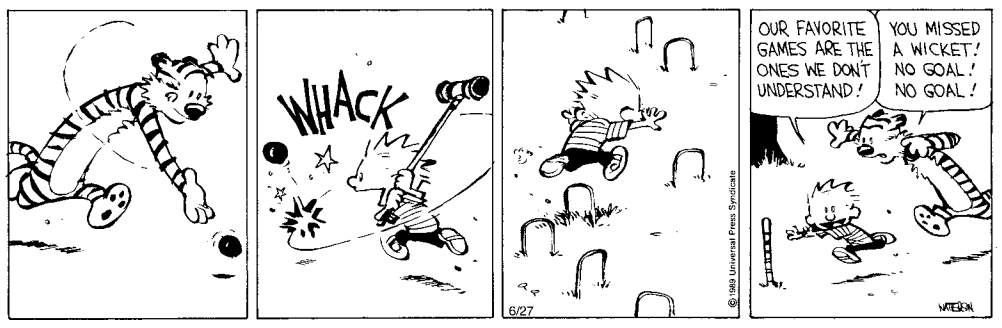
■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHACK
OUR FAVORITE GAMES ARE THE ONES WE DON'T UNDERSTAND!
YOU MISSED A WICKET! NO GOAL! NO GOAL!
6/27
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

...AND THAT'S WHY I...HEY!
YOU'RE NOT JON! YOU'RE A POTTED PLANT!
YOU SHOULD WEAR A NAME TAG OR SOMETHING!
JIM DAVIS 6-27
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www.garfield.com
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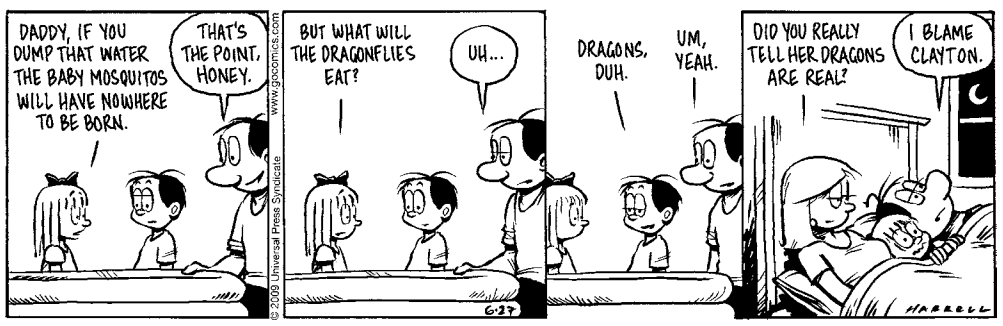
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DADDY, IF YOU DUMP THAT WATER THE BABY MOSQUITOS WILL HAVE NOWHERE TO BE BORN.
THAT'S THE POINT, HONEY.
BUT WHAT WILL THE DRAGONFLIES EAT?
UH...
DRAGONS, DUH.
UM, YEAH.
DID YOU REALLY TELL HER DRAGONS ARE REAL?
I BLAME CLAYTON.
6-27
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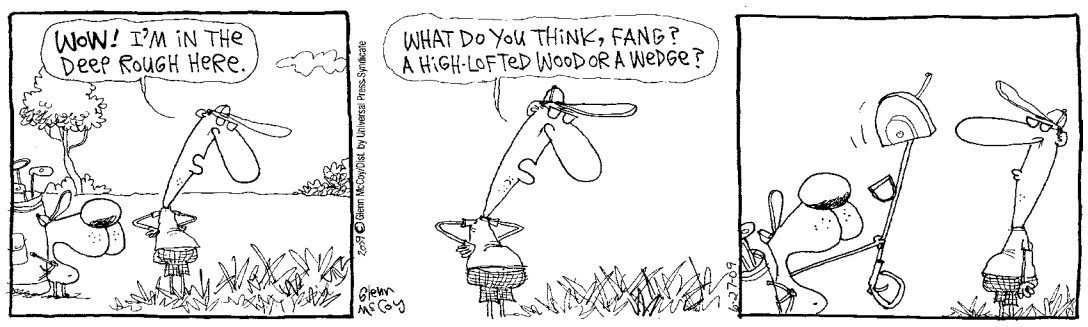
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WOW! I'M IN THE DEEP ROUGH HERE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, FANG? A HIGH-LOFTED WOOD OR A WEDGE?
2009 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

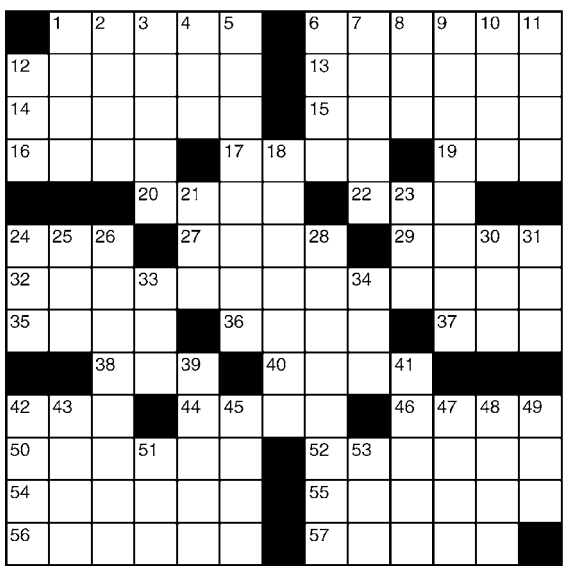
ACROSS
1 Pesky crawler
6 Obliterates
12 Big — (WW I gun)
13 Springy?
14 Straighten, in a way
15 Box
16 Soccer score
17 Loving
19 Church seat
20 Easter entree
22 Potential syrup
24 — Lanka
27 Pigeon-—
29 "La Boheme" role
32 Bug studiers
35 Stinging flier
36 Pleasant
37 Overacting one?
38 Fool
40 Distort
42 North Pole worker
44 Birthday party must-have
46 "American —"
50 Goldbrick
52 Protection against firing
54 Mysterious
55 Ran the show
56 Made a profit
57 Because of

DOWN
1 Nevada city
2 Killer whale
3 Ringlike island
4 Actor McBride
5 Crescent
6 Tied
7 Tears
8 Joan of —
9 Talking irritably
10 Relaxation
11 Passel
12 Wiretap
18 Washington Monument, e.g.
21 $ dispenser
23 Parisian pal
24 Wield a needle
25 Geneticist's stuff
26 "I'm not lying!"
28 On the court's roster
30 Transp. letters
31 Doctrine
33 Chances, for short
34 "Golly!"
39 Diorama
41 Recoil a bit
42 Verve
43 Traditional tales
45 Cezanne's "Boy in — Vest"
47 Pair's air
48 Oft-dunked treat
49 Started
51 Corpulent
53 Outback bird

Solution time: 27 mins.

O	W	N	■	E	A	S	T	■	I	N	T	O
P	E	A	■	G	L	E	E	■	M	O	O	D
U	P	S	T	R	E	A	M	■	P	R	O	D
S	T	A	R	E	R	■	P	I	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	S	T	■	U	P	L	I	N	K
B	A	R	N	S	■	S	R	O	■	D	O	N
E	K	E	D	■	C	P	A	■	S	L	O	E
T	I	E	■	J	O	Y	■	S	C	E	N	E
A	N	D	H	O	W	■	A	P	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	S	H	■	B	R	A	S	S	Y
J	A	Z	Z	■	A	W	A	Y	G	A	M	E
O	B	O	E	■	N	O	S	E	■	T	U	G
T	O	O	L	■	D	O	E	R	■	E	G	G

Yesterday's answer 6-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madylin Sweeten, 18; Drake Bell, 23; Tobey Maguire, 34; Julia Duffy, 58

Happy Birthday: Some interesting options will arise this year but don't be too hasty about implementing them. You have many decisions to make but, whatever you decide to do, you will struggle with it until next year when your hard work starts to pay off. There is plenty to look forward to if you bide your time. Your numbers are 5, 9, 18, 24, 26, 31, 40

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: A few hours of preparation will make your upcoming week easier. Set your schedule so you can finish what you start and ease your stress. Networking or mixing business with pleasure will pay off. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Getting involved in activities that are conducive to enhancing a personal relationship will help you establish your position and plans for the future. You stand to gain a lot if you are attentive and understanding. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Stick to your plan, even if it means being the person who says no. A secret that has to do with your personal life must be kept. A surprise party will be appreciated but will also have its drawbacks. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Assess the situation and make your move. You can outsmart and outmaneuver anyone who thinks they have you pegged or backed into a corner. Your memory will serve you well when demands are made. Don't back down. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Dump any responsibilities that you can. It's not up to you to carry the brunt of a burden when others should be taking a turn. Don't fall for the emotional tactics that someone uses on you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: You may feel stifled by someone who is trying to beat you at your own game. Don't give in to any emotional manipulation. Focus on love, your personal life and enjoyment of the people and places you visit. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: An opportunity to adjust your financial situation will ease your stress and pay off some of your personal and emotional debt. You can make some headway with one of your creative ideas if you share your thoughts with someone who has an interest in getting involved. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: You'll be chastised if you neglect the people you love. Take a break and spend a little time nurturing what you work so hard to protect. A short trip will take your mind off your worries and give you greater incentive to finish something that can alter your future. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: An emotional issue will be raised. Accommodate whoever is unhappy or face ongoing dilemmas that will cause you to miss out on things you want to do. There is no running or hiding, so face your responsibilities. ✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Entertain friends or make special plans for you and the one you love. Any home improvement projects you want to start or discuss will go well and should increase the value of your property. You can put someone's mind at ease with a legal contract. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Uncertainty regarding relationships will be puzzling but, if you take the time to dissect the situation, you will see how you can handle matters favorably. Your intelligence will allow you to outmaneuver the people confusing you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Don't stop now when you are so close to sealing a deal that will equate to a higher income or potential to improve your lifestyle. Don't let your apprehension or uncertainty hold you back. This time you must cast your fate to the wind and go with the flow. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a participant and strive for perfection professionally, personally and educationally. You are strong-willed and always protect your rights.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							9	7
	2	4	3	5				6
	9		8					
	8	1						
	7			1			5	
						4	1	
					6		7	
8				4	2	5	6	
3	4							

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Thursday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	8	6	3	5	4	9	7
4	3	9	1	7	8	6	5	2
6	7	5	9	2	4	3	1	8
9	1	3	7	5	6	8	2	4
5	8	7	2	4	9	1	3	6
2	4	6	3	8	1	9	7	5
7	5	1	8	6	3	2	4	9
3	6	2	4	9	7	5	8	1
8	9	4	5	1	2	7	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LAKE ERIE **Solution: 9 letters**

S	P	M	I	C	H	I	G	A	N	S	(F)	(I)	(S)	(H)
A	U	R	E	J	O	L	L	I	E	T	M	N	Y	A
L	N	R	E	T	A	G	B	A	S	S	A	E	E	B
M	A	A	O	C	S	S	R	E	V	I	R	P	L	I
O	E	K	I	H	I	Y	I	N	D	T	B	A	L	T
N	I	E	E	O	P	P	S	N	O	R	R	R	E	A
N	R	R	A	G	U	S	I	O	A	I	O	G	K	T
E	E	L	E	P	T	Q	O	T	C	B	S	C	L	L
W	M	E	S	U	O	M	O	H	A	E	A	O	K	E
A	S	O	R	L	A	N	D	R	P	T	L	S	R	B
L	H	T	H	G	T	O	U	R	I	L	I	A	I	E
L	L	U	A	A	R	A	G	A	I	N	A	O	H	N
E	T	U	R	R	W	J	O	H	N	S	O	N	N	S
Y	A	I	G	O	V	K	D	E	T	R	O	I	T	R
E	O	I	H	O	N	E	Y	K	S	U	D	N	A	S

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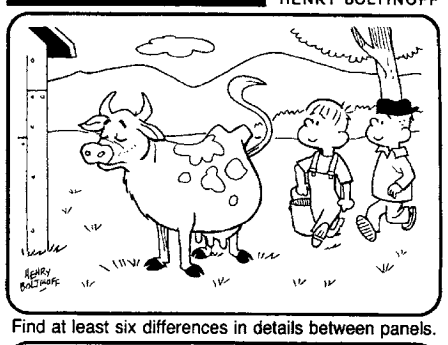
Basin, Bass, Bedrock, Belt, Detroit, Ecosystem, Erie, Erosion, Fish, Glacier, Grape, Green, Gull, Habitat, Huron, Indians, Iroquoian, Johnson, Jolliet, Kelleys, Lake, Land, Michigan, Mohawk, Mouse, Niagara, Ohio, Ontario, Pelee, Phosphorus, Plants, Precipitation, Rivers, Salmon, Sandusky, Shale, Smelt, Starve, Sugar, Tour, Tribe, Turtle, Walleye

Yesterday's Answer: Rituals

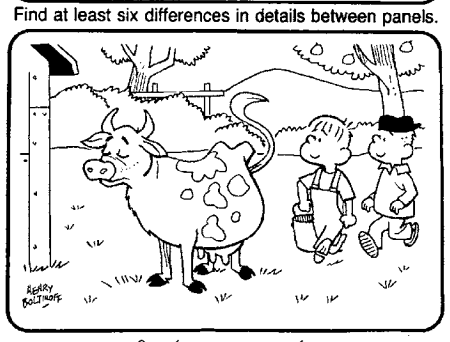
Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Apples added to tree. 2. Overall buttons are missing. 3. Cow has more spots. 4. Cloud is missing. 5. Tree and scenery is added. 6. Boy's right arm is visible.

Wishing Well®

4	3	7	3	8	3	7	6	7	3	8	3	4
U	A	D	F	P	T	U	Y	T	E	E	R	N
5	2	3	4	3	2	3	5	3	5	2	6	8
A	B	H	S	O	E	U	B	R	E	G	O	R
7	3	4	6	2	7	5	3	4	3	2	7	8
I	S	E	U	R	E	A	S	L	U	A	S	F
2	8	2	7	5	4	6	8	3	4	7	4	3
C	E	I	R	M	F	E	C	C	I	E	S	C
5	4	7	2	7	2	6	3	5	6	7	6	4
I	H	D	O	E	U	X	E	N	T	F	E	A
5	4	2	3	7	3	7	5	6	7	8	6	4
G	I	S	S	I	S	N	S	N	E	T	D	D
8	7	5	6	5	8	5	6	8	5	6	8	6
L	D	M	H	I	I	L	E	F	E	L	E	P

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

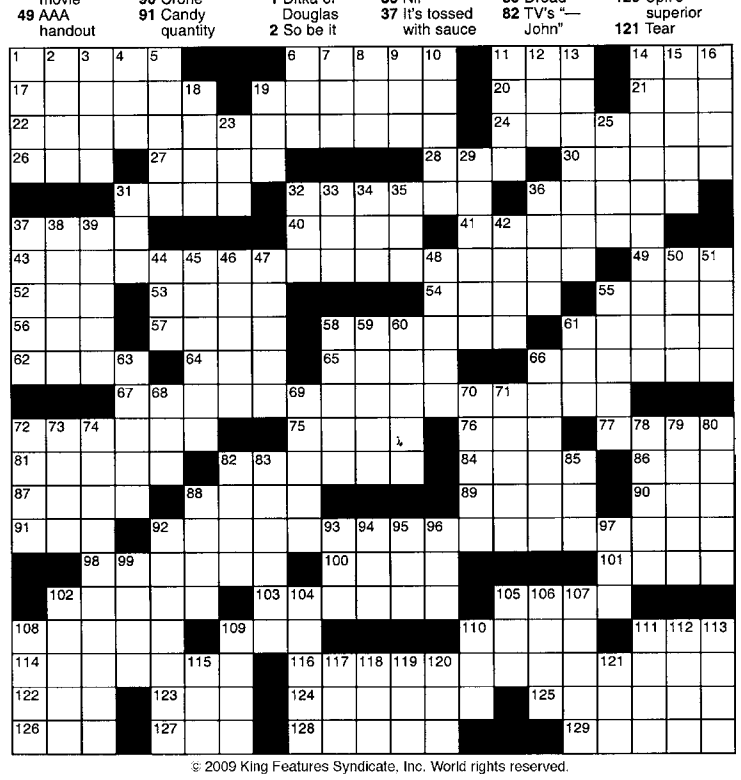
EIRE COLORING

ACROSS

1 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange"
6 Fog
11 Injurious
14 Hoover or Aswan
17 Mrs. Marcos
19 "Dreaming of You" singer
20 Actress MacGraw
21 Significant years
22 Jim Henson creation
24 Unexpected success
26 Chemical ending
27 — gras
28 When Satie sweltered
30 Street talk
31 Ballyhoo
32 Salad veggie
36 Zoo attraction
37 "— Don't Preach" ('86 hit)
40 Part of Q.E.D.
41 Fancy fabric
43 Clint Eastwood movie
49 AAA handout
52 Sault — Marie, MI
53 To boot
54 "— Angel" ('33 film)
55 Lurid Lugosi
56 Gumshoe
57 Strained
58 Hogan's home
61 Asian capital
62 Ornery Olympian
64 Gangster's gun
65 "Rama — Ding Dong" ('61 tune)
66 "Emma" author
67 Self-possessed
72 Hutton or Tewes
75 Patriot James
76 Chum
77 Length x width
81 "Lou Grant" star
82 PC key
84 Constellation component
86 East ender?
87 Catty remark?
88 "Jumbo" set
89 Beige
90 Crone
91 Candy quantity
92 Hugh Masekela hit
98 Speculation
100 Soccer great
101 Help a hood
102 Lustrous
103 Ornamental shrub
105 Sleep in the woods
108 Roused
109 Charge
110 Fountain order
111 Medical grp.
114 United
116 John D. MacDonald book or this puzzle's theme
122 Bother
123 Presidential nickname
124 Singer Percy
125 Mouse or moose
126 King's handle
127 Crow's comment
128 It may be eaten or drunk
129 Utilize

DOWN

1 Ditka or Douglas
2 So be it
3 Richard of "First Knight"
4 Common street name
5 Uplift
6 Victory sign
7 TV ET
8 By means of
9 Yoko —
10 Blows one's stack
11 Military center
12 Dryden's "— for Love"
13 Some engines
14 Bureau
15 Fight site
16 Actress Helgenberger
18 Perched on
19 Haggard heroine
23 Bind
25 Czech river
29 Houston or Ritter
31 Contains
32 Auto acronym
33 Pound sound
34 June honoree
35 Japanese statesman
36 Nil
37 It's tossed with sauce
38 Behind
39 Cake helping
42 Chinese principle
44 Make lace
45 Pub vessel
46 Ordinary
47 "Whole — Love" ('69 song)
48 New Hampshire's state flower
50 — vera
51 Ache
55 Iraqi city
58 Blackboard
59 Unspoken
60 Cause a chuckle
61 Color
63 It needs to be threaded
66 Loud
68 "— the ramparts . . ."
69 Maestro Georg
70 In a stew
71 Fire wood?
72 It becomes ewe?
73 Lost
74 Nonconformist
78 Change for the better
79 Rub out
80 Dread
82 TV's "— John"
83 Organic catalyst
85 Carpet
88 Football's Aikman
92 Non-proprietary
93 "All Things Considered" network
94 Procure
95 Under the weather
96 Born
97 Chat
99 Walk in the woods
102 Nobel, for one
104 It makes rye high
105 Pigeon English?
106 — Romeo
107 — cum laude
108 Way over yonder
109 Soared
110 — Guevara
111 Rope fiber
112 It should be square
113 Enya's "— Time"
115 Alias initials
117 Mr. Ziegfeld
118 Where goats gambol
119 Pitches
120 Cpl.'s superior
121 Tear



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. COMICS: What was the name of Calvin's teacher in "Calvin & Hobbes"?
2. LANGUAGE: What does it mean when something is described as being "draconian"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Ecuador?
4. MATH: What is the sequence in Fibonacci numbers?
5. ADVERTISING SLOGANS: What product "takes a licking and keeps on ticking," according to its 1950s advertising slogan?
6. LITERATURE: What Southern author often wrote novels set in the fictional "Yoknapatawpha County"?
7. ENTERTAINERS: In what year did actress Grace Kelly become the Princess of Monaco?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What vegetable is used in making sauerkraut?
9. TELEVISION: What was Marge Simpson's maiden name on the sitcom "The Simpsons"?
10. HISTORY: In what U.S. city was the Democratic National Convention held in 1968?

Answers

1. Miss Wormwood
2. Extremely harsh or cruel
3. Quito
4. The first two Fibonacci numbers are 0 and 1 and each number that follows is the sum of the previous two: 0+1=1, 1+1=2, 1+2=3, 2+3=5, etc.
5. A Timex watch
6. William Faulkner
7. 1956
8. Cabbage
9. Bouvier
10. Chicago

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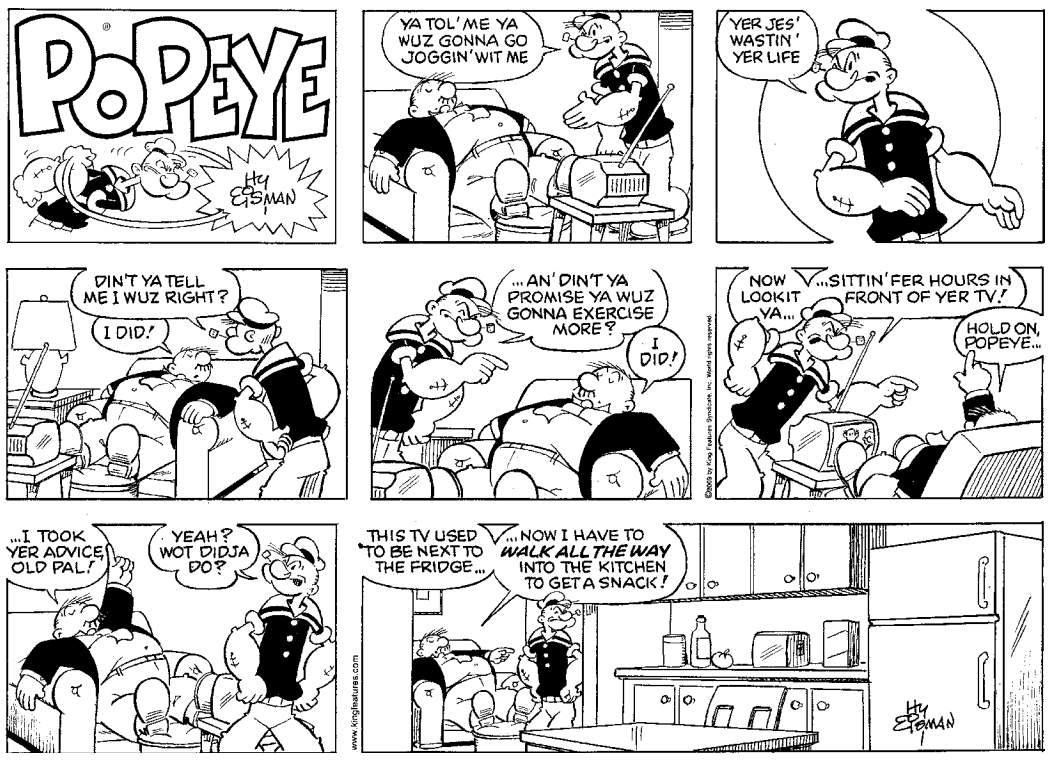
Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
HY EISMAN
YA TOL' ME YA WUZ GONNA GO JOGGIN' WIT ME
YER JES' WASTIN' YER LIFE
DIN'T YA TELL ME I WUZ RIGHT?
I DID!
...AN' DIN'T YA PROMISE YA WUZ GONNA EXERCISE MORE?
I DID!
NOW LOOKIT YA...
...SITTIN' FER HOURS IN FRONT OF YER TV!
HOLD ON, POPEYE...
...I TOOK YER ADVICE, OLD PAL!
YEAH? WOT DIDJA DO?
THIS TV USED TO BE NEXT TO THE FRIDGE...
...NOW I HAVE TO WALK ALL THE WAY INTO THE KITCHEN TO GET A SNACK!
www.kingfeatures.com

Amber Waves

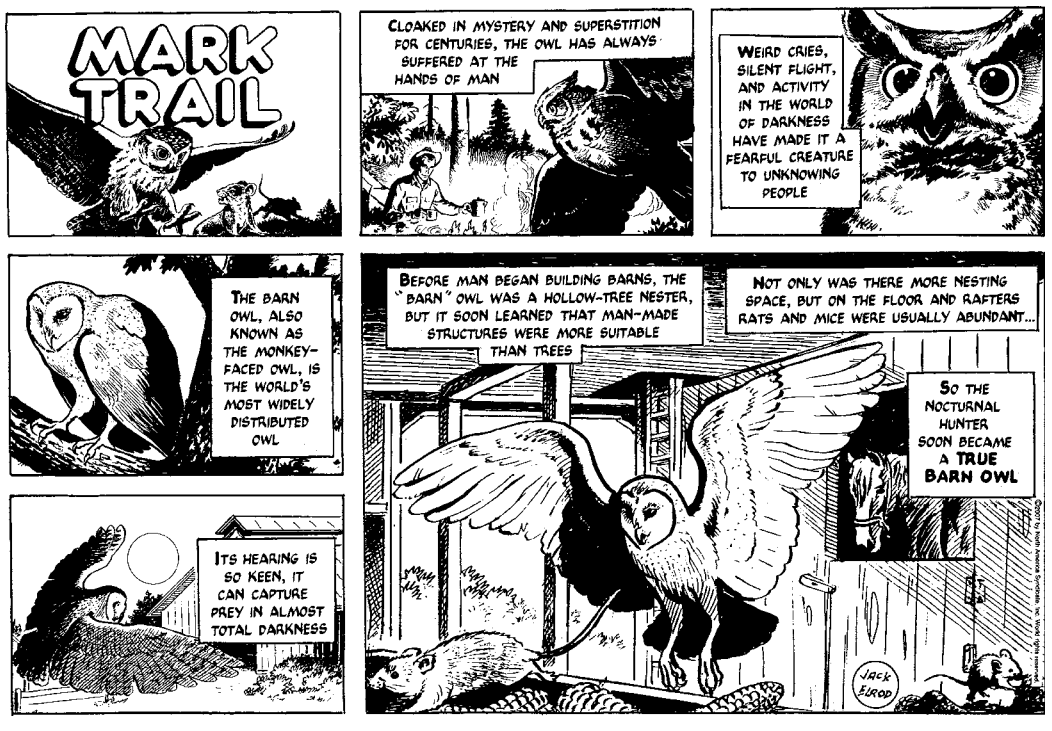
by Dave T. Phipps

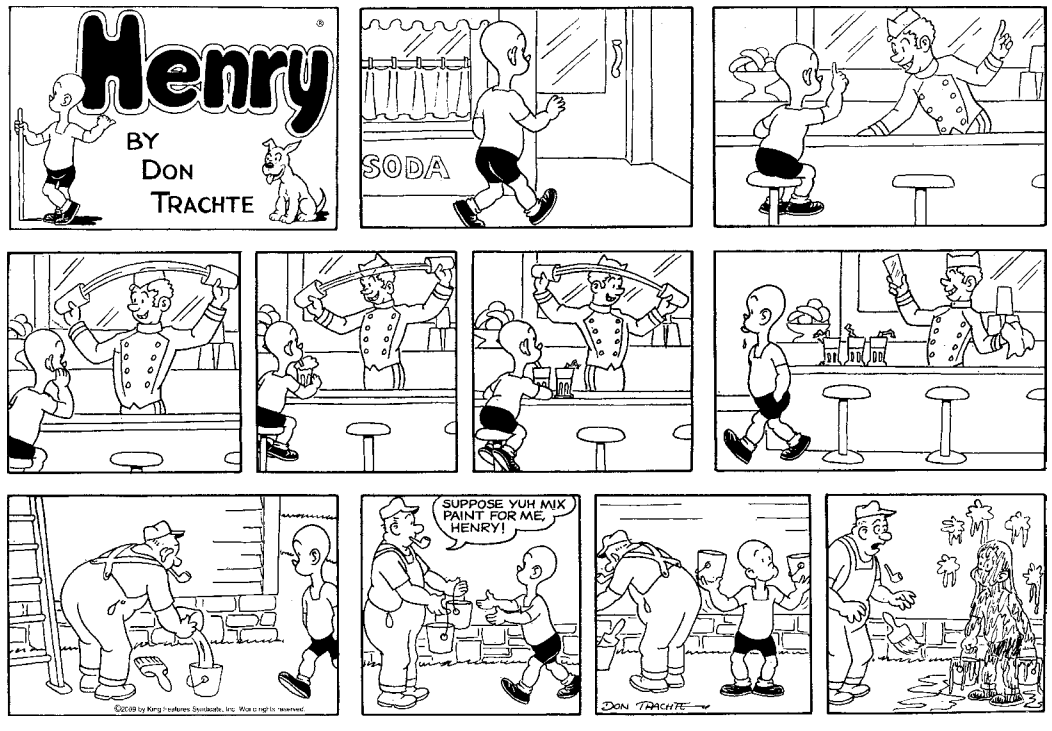
MY RESPONSIBILITY AS THE DAD IS TO TAKE CARE OF THE FARMWORK.
MY RESPONSIBILITY AS THE MOM IS TO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSEWORK.
MY RESPONSIBILITY AS THE KID IS TO ALWAYS DO MY HOMEWORK.
MY RESPONSIBILITY.... OK, WHAT CAN I SAY, LIFE IS GOOD.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I PUT HALF OF MY MONEY IN TOILET PAPER STOCK...
...I PUT THE OTHER HALF IN REVOLVING DOOR STOCK...
...I WAS WIPED OUT BEFORE I COULD TURN AROUND!


MARK TRAIL
CLOAKED IN MYSTERY AND SUPERSTITION FOR CENTURIES, THE OWL HAS ALWAYS SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF MAN
WEIRD CRIES, SILENT FLIGHT, AND ACTIVITY IN THE WORLD OF DARKNESS HAVE MADE IT A FEARFUL CREATURE TO UNKNOWING PEOPLE
THE BARN OWL, ALSO KNOWN AS THE MONKEY-FACED OWL, IS THE WORLD'S MOST WIDELY DISTRIBUTED OWL
BEFORE MAN BEGAN BUILDING BARNS, THE "BARN" OWL WAS A HOLLOW-TREE NESTER, BUT IT SOON LEARNED THAT MAN-MADE STRUCTURES WERE MORE SUITABLE THAN TREES
NOT ONLY WAS THERE MORE NESTING SPACE, BUT ON THE FLOOR AND RAFTERS RATS AND MICE WERE USUALLY ABUNDANT...
SO THE NOCTURNAL HUNTER SOON BECAME A TRUE BARN OWL
ITS HEARING IS SO KEEN, IT CAN CAPTURE PREY IN ALMOST TOTAL DARKNESS
JACK EUROD



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

GORILLA

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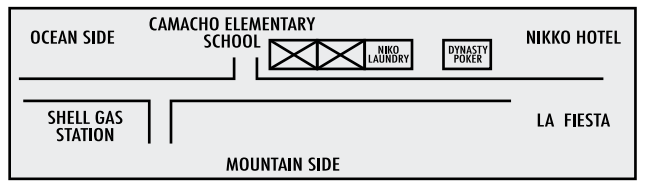
Total Land Area: 1,200 m²
Located in San Roque



Pls. Contact Emer at Tel. No. 287-0693/233-0234

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

SERVICES

Diligence Lawn Care Services
We offer you lawn care, cleaning, land clearing or moving services. Call 287-0319 (Islam)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re Estate of GEORGE A. MANGLONA, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1061) NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 11, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of George A. Manglona in and to the following property: Lots 002 T 25, 114 T 16, 006 T 17, 114 T 18, 057 T 18, 006 T 186, 008 T 85, 001 T 22, 035 T 18, and 035 T 19. All of these properties are situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. All sales are subject to court approval.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 10, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Ofices of Michael A. White, Esq., LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 22nd day of May, 2009.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

WHATZIT Solution: Go ape

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Across from IT&E, completely furnished, A/C, washer/dryer, 24-hr. CUC/rainwater, ceiling fans, walk-in closet, clean, well-maintained. 1BR $425/mo, 2BR $525/mo. Call Ed at 788-6268 or 235-0409

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USED TIRE
JOETEN DANDAN
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Fitial says decision to end Aggreko 'far from certain'
CUC emergency extended anew
'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'
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Sports

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235- NEWS

Clippers take Griffin with No. 1 pick

NEW YORK (AP)—Blake Griffin was the consensus No. 1 pick. Shaq to the Cavs was the consensus blockbuster.

On a day of head-turning trades around the NBA, the Los Angeles Clippers started Thursday night's draft with the obvious choice: Griffin, the only player considered a sure thing in a class full of question marks.

Griffin was the consensus college player of the year after leading the nation with 14.4 rebounds per game while averaging 22.7 points last season for Oklahoma. The Clippers said they would take the forward with the top pick just hours after they won the draft lottery last month, and never considered changing their minds.

"The fact is we're getting an incredible player, incredible person, an impeccable work ethic and a guy that we plan on having in L.A. for many years to come," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said. "He's going to be a great, exciting fit for our ballclub."

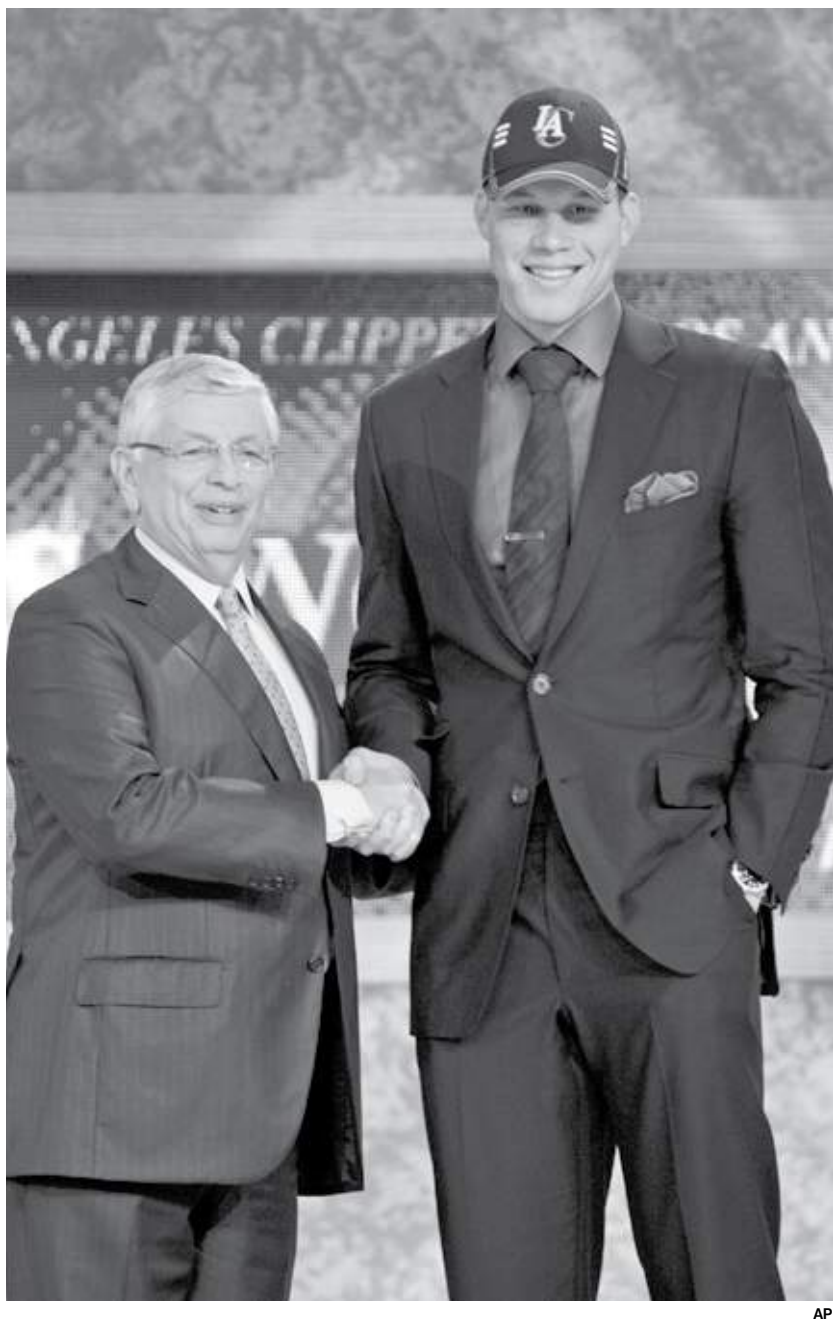
The draft followed a day of big trades in the NBA.

The deal that sent Shaquille O'Neal to play alongside LeBron James in Cleveland was completed earlier Thursday, and Eastern Conference champion Orlando acquired Vince Carter from the Nets in a swap completed shortly before the first pick was made.

San Antonio landed Richard Jefferson from Milwaukee on Tuesday, and more big names could be available this summer as teams are forced to slash payroll. The best way to improve quickly this year was through trades, because the draft was considered weaker than in recent years.

It lacked the star power of 2007, when Greg Oden and Kevin Durant battled it out for top pick honors, or when Derrick Rose beat out Michael Beasley last year.

There was no debate this time. Dunleavy announced the Clippers' intentions shortly after his team's surprising lottery win, and they began a marketing campaign featuring the forward the next day.



AP

NBA commissioner David Stern, left, poses with the No.1 overall draft pick Blake Griffin, from Oklahoma, who was selected by the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round of the NBA basketball draft, Thursday, June 25, 2009 in New York.

The Clippers are hoping Griffin turns out better than their last No. 1 overall pick. They opened the 1998 draft by taking center Michael Olowokandi, a bust who is out of the league.

"Hopefully I can bring something they don't have," Griffin said. "I know they have a lot of great players but at the same time I'm excited about the opportunity and hopefully I can bring something to the table that they don't have or maybe they need."

The Memphis Grizzlies then grabbed Connecticut center Hasheem Thabeet, a dominant rebounder and shot blocker who doesn't have strong offensive skills.

After the two big men, the rest of the first round was dominated by guards—with the Minnesota Timberwolves going for a few of them—with at least 10 players selected who could play the point. Seven guards went in the first 10 selections.

The Timberwolves snapped up Spanish teenager Ricky Rubio at No. 5, a pick they acquired from Washington earlier this week, before going for Syracuse's Jonny Flynn with the next pick.

It was thought Rubio might go as high as No. 2, but that never worked out for Memphis. Instead the Grizzlies went with Thabeet, the 7-foot-3 native of Tanzania who switched from soccer to basketball just a few years ago. He has rapidly developed his defensive skills, but still has work to go on the other end.

"The whole season I spent working on my offense and working with so many different people, and to me this is a great opportunity to come out here and go play," Thabeet said.

Rubio has to pay a multimillion dollar buyout to his Spanish club team to get out of his contract, and he said Wednesday his mother doesn't like cold weather. So he sounded lukewarm about heading to Minneapolis.

"I have to think about that, because I'm just three minutes from a Timberwolves player," he said. "So I'm going to talk with my agent about that and we are going to see."

Oklahoma City took high-scoring Arizona State guard James Harden with the No. 3 pick and Sacramento followed by drafting Memphis freshman Tyreke Evans—who like Griffin was wearing a purple tie. So was Stephen Curry, the NCAA scoring leader from Davidson who went at No. 7 to Golden State.

Jordan Hill (New York), Demar DeRozan (Toronto) and Brandon Jennings (Milwaukee) rounded out the top 10, but Jennings didn't come out to don his Bucks hat and shake hands with commissioner David Stern. His agent, Bill Duffy, released a statement earlier Thursday saying he had advised Jennings and his family not to attend the draft and wait in the green room because he was unsure of his client's draft position.

However, Jennings—the point guard who skipped college to spend a year playing in Europe—came out from behind the stage, wearing the Milwaukee cap, to greet Stern and wave to the fans after the 14th pick was announced.

A run of forwards followed before Philadelphia grabbed another point guard, UCLA's Jrue Holiday, who was considered a top 10 pick but tumbled to No. 17. Minnesota followed with its third point guard of the draft, Ty Lawson of national champion North Carolina—though he was shipped to the Denver Nuggets in yet another deal. Atlanta grabbed still another playmaker, Wake Forest's Jeff Teague, at No. 19. Utah kept up the run by selecting Eric Maynor from Virginia Commonwealth.

The Knicks made a pair of trades, acquiring the No. 29 pick, guard Toney Douglas, from the Los Angeles Lakers for a future second-round pick and cash. New York also acquired former No. 2 overall pick Darko Milicic from Memphis for Quentin Richardson and cash.

Minnesota grabbed another playmaker, Florida's Nick Calathes, in the second round, but dealt his rights to Dallas. The Wolves needed backcourt help after trading Randy Foye to Washington.

Second-round highlights included Pittsburgh teammates Sam Young and DeJuan Blair going with consecutive picks to Memphis and San Antonio at Nos. 36 and 37; and Taylor Griffin, Blake Griffin's older brother, going to Phoenix with the 48th pick.

Blockbuster: Cavs acquire Shaq from Suns

CLEVELAND (AP)—One is the King, a reigning MVP who at age 24 needs only a championship to complete his resume. The other is a larger-than-life personality who may be past the prime of his career but remains an undeniable force and hungers for a fifth NBA title.

LeBron and Shaq. Teammates.

The Cleveland Cavaliers executed a monster trade Thursday to unite the superstars, acquiring Shaquille O'Neal from the Phoenix Suns in hopes he can help LeBron James deliver this seemingly sports-cursed city its first major pro championship in 45 years.

The deal creates a tandem that instantly rivals any in sports today and calls to mind some of the great duos in NBA history: Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen, Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bob Cousy and Bill Russell, Shaq himself and Kobe Bryant.

More important, if Cleveland's gamble works and the 37-year-old O'Neal delivers a title, it could keep James around. James is an Akron native, knows Cleveland's pained sports history and has always maintained he wants to stay in his home state, though there is no guarantee he will sign an extension with the Cavs. Cleveland can offer him one as early as this summer.

But that's for another day.

Hours before an NBA draft that figured to be overshadowed by the Shaq-to-the-Cavs move, the reality of James playing with O'Neal, a 15-time All-Star, was just sinking in.

"Shaq is an incredible ballplayer and a four-time NBA champion," James said in a statement sent to The Associated Press. "I have a lot of respect for him and his game. It will be a real honor to play with Shaq as my teammates and I look forward to another great season with the Cavs."

The Cavs sent center Ben Wallace and swingman Sasha Pavlovic to the Suns, along with a second-round pick in the 2010 draft and $500,000 in cash, for O'Neal, the 7-foot-1 center who won three straight titles from 2000 to 2002 with Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers. His fourth title came with Dwyane Wade in Miami in 2006.

"I was elated about the trade because I get to play with one of the greatest players to ever play the game in LeBron James," O'Neal said during ESPN's draft telecast. He expects "a lot of fun, a lot of just having a good time and a lot of smiling, and a lot of winning."

The teams first talked about a deal in February but couldn't work out an agreement before the deadline, a missed opportunity that cost the Cavaliers in this year's playoffs when they had no answer inside for Orlando center Dwight Howard in the Eastern Conference finals.

After the Cavaliers were eliminated with a Game 6 loss, a frustrated James stormed off the floor in Orlando without shaking the hands of any Magic players, including Howard, his U.S. Olympic teammate.

Cleveland general manager Danny Ferry and Phoenix GM Steve Kerr, former teammates and close friends, never closed the book on the O'Neal deal and finally reached an agreement early Thursday morning.

Ferry completed the deal because he wants to win a title. Now.

Nets trade Vince Carter to Magic

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Vince Carter is going home to Orlando, and to the Eastern Conference champion Magic.

On a draft day when Cleveland made the biggest splash by trading for the Suns' Shaquille O'Neal, Orlando made a blockbuster move of its own in acquiring the Nets' Carter, an eight-time NBA All Star who grew up in Daytona Beach and lives in Orlando.

New Jersey also dealt forward Ryan Anderson to the Magic, who sent the Nets three players in return: Point guard Rafer Alston, shooting guard Courtney Lee and power forward Tony Battie.

The trade gives the Magic another star in a lineup that already includes Dwight Howard and Rashard Lewis. The deal might also convince Hedo Turkoglu, who can opt out of his contract and become a free agent on July 1, to remain with the Magic.

Orlando is hoping Carter, who has averaged 23.5 points over a 10-year pro career, will provide center Dwight Howard with a perimeter scorer who can create his own shot—something they lacked in losing the NBA finals to the Los Angeles Lakers.

It's also an indication the Magic believe their time is now.

"Vince gives us a veteran, go-to scoring presence, especially at the end of games," Orlando general manager Otis Smith said in a statement. "Our goal remains the same—to win a championship. Any time you can add an All-Star to help you reach your goals, you have to do it."

Carter found out about the trade at his basketball camp, adding he thought it was a joke at first.

"Every player hopes for an opportunity like this, to just once compete for an NBA championship," Carter said. "This a dream come true for me. Now I have a chance to win a championship."

The deal shows the Nets are planning for free agency before the 2010-11 season, when LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and Amare Stoudemire can test the market. The trade gives New Jersey some $18 million in salary cap relief for the 2010-11 coming out season.

"The trade we made today provides our franchise with numerous options in the long-term development of our team," Nets president Rod Thorn said in a statement.

Venus keeps knee status a mystery at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Venus Williams ambled onto sun-splashed Court 1 at Wimbledon on Thursday, a slight hitch in her step and an odd-looking wrap around her left knee. White tape here, brown tape there.

Good thing the five-time Wimbledon champion didn't need to run to hit serves, huh? Powered in part by her big-as-can-be deliveries, Williams overwhelmed 73rd-ranked Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-3, 6-2 in the second round to stretch her All England Club winning streaks to 16 matches and 27 sets.

Afterward, Williams was coy about the bandaging, saying it was "just for support."

"I really hate tape—like, hate. But I just needed it this time. I accepted that, and I realize that this is Wimbledon. So since it was Wimbledon, I taped," said the American, trying to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1991-93 to win three consecutive titles at the All England Club.

Asked why she needed help for this match after not wearing anything on that leg in the first round Tuesday, Williams said: "Well, what happened was, I needed some support, and then I went and got the support, and then I wore it in the match. ... I mean, I think all the players might start wearing it, because it's so supportive."

At last month's French Open, where Williams lost in the third round, her father, Richard, said she had pain in her left knee. Her mother, Oracene Price, wouldn't offer an explanation Thursday after watching Williams hit six aces at up to 119 mph against Bondarenko, saying only, "Maybe she'll tell you. I'm not going have her screaming at me."

AP

Venus Williams of U.S. returns to Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine, during their second round women's singles match at Wimbledon, Thursday, June 25, 2009.

And with that, Price headed off to get a good spot to watch on Court 4, where Williams teamed with younger sister Serena later Thursday to reach the second round in doubles with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Virginie Razzano and Aravane Rezai of France.

The Great Tape Caper produced the closest thing to real intrigue Thursday at a tournament that has largely been devoid of surprises, other than Maria Sharapova's loss a day earlier. There were, however, two young American qualifiers who both made their way into the third round at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time: 17-year-old Melanie Oudin of Marietta, Ga., and 21-year-old Jesse Levine of Boca Raton, Fla.

"I'm still, like, trying to comprehend everything," said Oudin, who is ranked 124th and beat Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The 133rd-ranked Levine, who was born in Canada and moved to Florida when he was 13, defeated Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay 6-2, 6-1, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3.

"He goes about it the right way. He's professional. He works hard," 2003 U.S. Open champion Andy Roddick said about Levine. "You wish all the young guys kind of had his work ethic and professionalism."

Roddick, twice a Wimbledon runner-up, got to the third round with a 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 win over Igor Kunitsyn of Russia. Playing on the grass that gives solid serves extra verve, Roddick hit 18 aces and faced break points in only one game.

"We're pretty even from the baseline. I can even say I might have a little edge on him," the 39th-ranked Kunitsyn said. "But his serve is a big advantage on these courts."

Only one seeded player departed, No. 5 Juan Martin del Potro, and while his 6-3, 7-5, 7-5 loss to a man ranked 56th might ordinarily count as an upset, it wasn't necessarily all that shocking when you consider that man is Lleyton Hewitt. That's because the 28-year-old Hewitt was the 2002 champion at Wimbledon and reached at least the fourth round each of the past five years, while the 20-year-old del Potro never has been past the second round at the All England Club.

"He's one of my idols," del Potro said.

None of the top women were even tested on Day 4. Like Williams, No. 1 Dinara Safina and past major champions Svetlana Kuznetsova, Amelie Mauresmo and Ana Ivanovic all won in straight sets. There was, however, some wondering aloud by Safina and Kuznetsova about whether they were treated properly by organizers who shunted them off to smaller venues.

"Of course it's not fair," said Safina, who beat Rossana de Los Rios 6-3, 7-5 on Court 2, while No. 9 Caroline Wozniacki played 59th-ranked Maria Kirilenko on Centre Court.

Reigning French Open champion Kuznetsova, meanwhile, is seeded No. 5 but was on Court 3 on Thursday, two days after playing on Court 14.

"I'm fine to put me wherever they want. They don't have to put me Centre Court," Kuznetsova said. "But this is little bit weird."

Roddick is one of three U.S. men left—he, Levine and No. 28 Mardy Fish all attended Boca Prep International School—and Hewitt was the only Australian man who even entered Wimbledon. Andy Murray, as expected, is the last British player remaining in a tournament last won in the 1930s by a man from the host country, and he was impressive in beating Ernests Gulbis of Latvia 6-2, 7-5, 6-3.

How impressive? Murray made a grand total of five—count 'em, five—unforced errors, while producing 36 winners.

Just in case there were any doubts about how big a deal the third-seeded Murray's quest for a title is, get this: He was hand-delivered a letter from none other than Queen Elizabeth II, congratulating him on his recent victory at a grass-court tuneup tournament in London and wishing him luck at Wimbledon.

"Yeah, it's surprising," Murray said. "I mean, you don't get that every day."

Santana leads Mets over Cardinals

NEW YORK (AP)—Johan Santana bested Chris Carpenter in a matchup of former pitchers of the year as the New York Mets beat the St. Louis Cardinals 3-2 on Thursday to win their first series in nearly three weeks.

Nick Evans hit a two-run double in a three-run fourth inning for the Mets, who gave up an unearned run in the first and then rallied to take three of four from the National League Central leader.

Santana (9-5), the American League Cy Young Award winner in 2004 and 2006, gave up two runs—one earned—and seven hits in seven innings. Carpenter (5-2), the NL Cy Young winner in 2005, gave up three runs and four hits in seven innings.

Tigers 6, Cubs 5

At Detroit, Magglio Ordonez ended a career-long, 40-game home run drought by slamming the go-ahead shot, leading Detroit to its season-best seventh straight victory.

Ordonez connected for a two-run homer in the fourth inning off Ted Lilly (7-5), who allowed six runs and 10 hits in six innings and lost for the first time in a month.

Armando Galarraga (4-7) won for the first time since April 26.

Astros 5, Royals 4

At Houston, Lance Berkman homered twice and drove in four runs to help Houston overcome an error-filled day and beat Kansas City.

Berkman entered the game needing to drive in one run to become the third player in team history to reach 1,000 RBIs. He did it on his first at-bat, a two-run shot to far left field that gave Houston a 2-1 lead.

The win prevented the Royals from sweeping the Astros for the first time in their eight-series history.

Twins 6, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, Denard Span tripled, walked three times and scored three runs in his first game back from the disabled list as Minnesota earned its fifth win in six games against Milwaukee this season.

Joe Crede hit his 11th home run and Scott Baker (5-6) went six innings, holding the Brewers scoreless until Casey McGehee and Prince Fielder homered in the sixth. Baker has won his last three decisions and hasn't given up more than three runs in his last five outings.

Milwaukee's Mike Burns (0-1) made his first career start, giving up four runs and six hits over 5 2-3 innings.

White Sox 6, Dodgers 5, 13 innings

At Chicago, Scott Podsednik lined a two-out RBI single in front of diving center fielder Matt Kemp in the 13th inning to give Chicago consecutive home victories for the first time since May 22-23.

Podsednik's hit came against Jeff Weaver (4-2) with the bases loaded.

Mariners 9, Padres 3

At Seattle, Ichiro Suzuki lined the 29th leadoff homer of his career into the right-field seats and finished a triple short of the cycle as Seattle gave starter Jarrod Washburn his first win in more than two months.

Suzuki hit the third pitch from San Diego starter Wade LeBlanc (0-1) for his sixth homer of the season. He added a double in the second and single in the fourth, but grounded out and reached on an infield hit in his final two at-bats. It was his third four-hit game of the season as the Mariners finally gave Washburn (4-5) some run support.

Yankees 11, Braves 7

At Atlanta, Alex Rodriguez tied Reggie Jackson with his 563rd home run and Mariano Rivera earned his 499th career save in the New York Yankees' victory over Atlanta.

The Yankees have won two straight after a three-game losing streak. New York took sole possession of second place in the AL East and moved four games behind Boston in the AL East.

Rodriguez, who has driven in six runs over his past seven at-bats, gave the Yankees a 10-6 lead with a two-run single in the seventh off reliever Peter Moylan. Rodriguez hit his 10th homer in the first, a solo shot, to tie Jackson for 11th place on baseball's career list. Rodriguez and Johnny Damon finished with four RBIs.

Pirates 3, Indians 2

At Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen hit a game-ending bloop single to score Jack Wilson and give Pittsburgh a come-from-behind victory over Cleveland.

McCutchen, a top prospect recalled when the Pirates traded All-Star Nate McLouth on June 4, singled to left off Matt Herges (2-1) with runners on first and third and no outs in the ninth.

Reds 7, Blue Jays 5

At Toronto, Joey Votto hit a tiebreaking home run among his four hits as Cincinnati avoided a sweep against Toronto.

Born in suburban Toronto, Votto came in 2 for 18 in five career games in his home city but turned that around by doubling home a run in the first, hitting an RBI single in the second, reaching on a leadoff single in the fourth and homering to begin the sixth.

Right-hander Johnny Cueto (7-4) allowed five runs and five hits in six innings for the win.

Rays 10, Phillies 4

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Willy Aybar homered and drove in three runs as replacement for the injured Evan Longoria to lead Tampa Bay over Philadelphia in the decisive game of a rematch of last year's World Series teams.

Ben Zobrist hit a two-run homer and Jason Bartlett extended his career-best hitting streak to a franchise-record 19 games as the Rays, who fell to the Phillies in five games in October, won two straight after dropping the opener of this series 10-1.

The Phillies, who've lost 10 of 12, scored four runs in the first, but rookie left-hander Antonio Bastardo (2-3) couldn't hold the lead.

Nationals 9, Red Sox 3

At Washington, John Smoltz had a rough debut inning for Boston, allowing four of the first five batters to score before settling down in his first major league game in more than a year.

Smoltz (0-1) gave up a run in the third, but retired the side in order in the second and fourth and fanned all three batters he faced in his final inning. His final line: five innings, seven hits, five earned runs, one walk, one hit batter and five strikeouts in 92 pitches.

Marlins 11, Orioles 3

At Miami, Hanley Ramirez hit a grand slam, and Cody Ross and Dan Uggla each homered as Florida cruised past Baltimore.

It was the third grand slam of the season for Ramirez, tying him for the single-season franchise record with Ross (2009), Jeff Conine (2004) and Bobby Bonilla (1997.) Ramirez has 13 RBIs in his last four games.

Marlins starter Sean West (3-2) scattered four hits over six scoreless innings to notch his third win in his last four starts.

Rangers 9, Diamondbacks 8

At Phoenix, Chris Davis and David Murphy hit back-to-back homers in the 12th inning, Andruw Jones also homered as Texas defeated Arizona.

With one out in the 12th, Nelson Cruz doubled to the right field gap off Esmerling Vasquez (1-2), snapping an 0-for-18 slump. One out later, Davis drove a 2-2 pitch into the right-field seats for his 14th homer. Two pitches later, Murphy followed with a shot to the same vicinity for his fourth homer.

Mark Reynolds hit a pair of two-run homers for the Diamondbacks.

Perry ties course record with 61 at Travelers

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—Kenny Perry shot a 61 to tie the course record and take a two-shot lead after the first round of the Travelers Championship on Thursday.

Perry, who has finished in the top-10 seven times at this tournament, shot a 29 on the front nine, and had no bogeys. He flirted with a 59, before making par on the final two holes.

"I was looking for that magical number," Perry said. "I thought I could do it today. It was definitely in the back of my head. I was definitely trying to get it done."

Over 100 golfers shot under par, taking advantage of light winds and the soft greens left by the same rains that plagued the U.S. Open.

Charles Warren and Paul Goydos each shot 7-under par 63s to tie for second place. They also played bogey-free rounds. Goydos had birdies on three of his final four holes, while Warren putted for birdie 16 times.

"Whoever the superintendent is has done an unbelievable job getting the golf course ready given the amount of rain you've had, Warren said. "So, I think there will be low rounds all week...I think 59 is a possibility."

Australian Greg Chalmers had eight birdies, six over his final eight holes, and finished tied at 6-under with Spencer Levin, Boo Weekley and Tag Ridings.

"Sometimes on this golf course, you get on a roll," Chalmers said.

Weekley started out on the 10th hole and birdied his first six.

"I wish I could have kept the string going," he said. "We hit a lot of good putts out there and hit a lot of good shots. We just made two mistakes."

Ridings had the shot of the day, acing the par-3, 11th hole. He used a 9-iron from 154 yards out, to give the tournament its first hole-in-one since 2007, when both Craig Perks and Bo Van Pelt accomplished the feat.

"There is not a bit of wind out there," Ridings said. "The greens are firmer than anticipated but they are still soft, so they're really just perfect scoring conditions."

U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover was among nine golfers tied at 5 under.

But the day belonged to Perry, who has one other 61 in his career, at the 2003 Colonial.

On Thursday, he was 7 under after 10 holes, and said that's when he began the think about a sub-60 round, something that's only been accomplished three times on the PGA Tour.

AUSSIES

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tralia and New Caledonia were also played last night.

The Australia-New Zealand semis game was close only in the first quarter before the Down Under players took over midway in the second period.

New Zealand even took a 23-19 lead behind Jordan Mills' back-to-back triples and Duane Bailey's layup, but Jeromie Hill anchored Australia' comeback to take the driver's seat at halftime, 36-31. Hill nailed eight points in the second period, while Kurtis Phillips added six.

Australia then widened the gap in the third period after limiting New Zealand to a field goal in the first six minutes of the that canto. The Kiwis were having a hard time penetrating Australia's interior defense and the former's outside shots were not going in either, most of the time. Often, New Zealand was forced to make hurried shots, as the 24-second shot clock was ticking.

When Mills finally broke New Zealand's silence with his triple, Australia was already ahead by double digits, 46-36, with 3:49 left in the third period.

Both teams slowed down in the remaining three minutes of the third canto, but Australia managed to increase the lead to 12, going into the final canto, 50-38.

The Aussies put the finishing touches to their fifth straight win in the tournament with their good shooting from downtown and breakaway layups, as New Zealand's defense started to loosen up. Point guard Thomas Daly tallied two triples, while Phillips and Reece Maxwell nailed one each. Maxwell and Hill also walked away with easy layups in the final canto, while Australia's defense was unforgiving at the very end of the game, not allowing New Zealand to score in the last 48 seconds of the fourth period.

Hill finished with 22 points, while Phillips added 17. Mills top-scored for New Zealand with 16 markers.

In the other semis game in the men's division, New Caledonia held Guam to 18 first half points to nail a 31-point win and set up a title duel with Australia. Guam tallied nine points each in the first and second quarter.

New Caledonia started slow, making only 12 points in the first period, but pulled away in the second canto with a 26-9 scoring run.

It was New Caledonia's fourth straight win, as it also whipped the CNMI Men's Nationals in the last elimination round game Thursday night, 89-56.

The CNMI was winless in the tournament, but played its best game against New Caledonia. Oscar Ada scored in double figures for the first time with his 12 markers, while Pete Iguel contributed 11.

Men's Semifinals

Australia 78 – Hill 22, Phillips 17, Mullan 9, Daly 6, Bairstow 6, Purser 5, Maxwell 5, Wilcher 4, Simpson 2, Warbout 2.

New Zealand 49 – Mills 16, Makavilitogia 8, Maiava 6, Aston 6, Miller 4, Bailey 4, Green 4, Nikora 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-13, 36-31, 50-38, 78-49.

New Caledonia 78 – B.Weber 13, Souria-Ouamba 11, R. Webber 10, Tetainanuarii 10, Mathelon 9, Taufana 8, Mana 7, Bernier 5, Saminadin 3, Homou 2.

Guam 47 – Blas 15, Ant. Borja 8, Susuico 6, Estelle 6, Fejeran 5, Stinnett 5, And. Borja 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-9, 38-18, 56-34, 78-47.

SAIPAN

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the Top 2 teams advancing to the finals.

Saipan Inter, which is mostly composed of CNMI Men' National players, debuted with a 5-3 win over Korea-A behind Nick Swaim and Miller's two goals each. Peter Houk scored the other goal for Saipan Inter.

In the second game, Korea-B and Independent FC had a 2-2 draw, while in the third match, Inter improved to a 2-0 record after whipping Independent FC, 4-1. Again, Miller tallied two goals, while Otsuka also had two goals.

Saipan Inter' third and last game in the elimination round against Korea-B resulted to a 2-2 draw. For the third straight time, Miller found the back of the net, while Dae Min Jeon logged one.

After a debut loss to Saipan Inter, Korea-A swept its last two games to set a rematch with the eventual champion. Korea A blanked Independent, 4-0, and edged Korea-B, 3-1.

Saipan Inter went home with a trophy and two soccer balls as prizes. The back-to-back champion also took home two individual awards with Peter Loken getting the MVP plum and Joe Miller claiming the Golden Boot award with his total of seven goals.

Over 60 players joined last weekend's tournament.

"The day was a lot of fun, the Korean football guys put on a tourney a couple of times each year and we're always happy to take part. NMIFA is growing soccer very quickly on the island, but the Korean Association has been developing young Saipan Koreans for many, many years and the boys really can play," said Dale Roberts, who was part of Saipan Inter.

FIESTA

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Top 2 in the team standings.

The Top 2 teams in the six-team field will automatically advance to the semifinals, while the remaining four will battle for the last two semis seats. League-leading G4S with its 8-1 slate has a strong chance to secure the first semis berth.

Chris Mojar top-scored for Fiesta with his 20 points. His 12 points in the second quarter allowed Fiesta to turn a 19-13 first quarter lead to a 43-32 halftime advantage.

PTC never recovered from thereon, as it had only Jojo Garon and Erlan Lansang making things work for the team. Garon finished with a game-high 32 points, while Lansang contributed 28. PTC's next best scorer was Ian Obnimaga, who nailed seven quiet points. The rest of their teammates combined for only eight.

In contrast, Mojar drew a lot of support from his teammates with Elmer Esdrelon chipping in 17, brother Jon March Ong adding 12, and Edgar Garcia and Jimmy Salazar contributing 10 apiece.

The loss dropped PTC to a 2-6 slate and the team is likely to finish second to the last.

Host Shirley's is still at the bottom of the team standings with a 1-7 mark after bowing to Micronesian Brokers, Inc. in the first game

MBI notched an 87-80 triumph to move up to fourth place with its 3-6 slate.

After trailing in the first period, 19-23, MBI got its act together in the second period, drawing contributions from six players. Shirley's had only three players piling up points in the second canto, allowing MBI to grab the driver's seat at halftime, 40-37.

MBI continued to have balance offense in the third, while the depleted Shirley's crew tried to stay in the game behind Jess Nicdao. Nicdao made eight points in the third and Shirley's remained afloat entering the final period, 58-63.

The host finally regained the lead, 71-70 on Fradel Sedillo's layup, with less than five minutes left in the game. However, R.J. Nonato, George Barbo, and Art Trajano came into MBI's rescue, combining for 12 of the team's last 17 points to preserve the win.

First Game

MBI 87 – Nonato 21, Barbo 17, Achas 14, Trajano 13, Sese 11, Alvarez 9, Cabrera 2.

Shirley's 80 – Nicdao 25, Sedillo 22, Pineda 11, Galario 11, Laxa 7, Catungal 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-24, 40-37, 63-58, 87-80.

Second Game

Fiesta 86 – Mojar 20, Esdrelon 17, J. Ong 12, Garcia 10, Salazar 10, De La Torre 4, Licop 3, Moran 2.

PTC 75 – Garon 32, Lansang 28, Obnimaga 7, Cepeda 4, Reyes 2, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-13, 43-32, 63-59, 85-75.

SEAN

From Page 28

June 22 and June 23.

He was the second highest scorer in the game against the CNMI on June 23, making 12 points, including a slam dunk.

Mullan, who is from a small town south of Sydney, has been playing basketball since he was 11 years old.

Mullan said yesterday that he chose to dedicate himself to basketball despite also enjoying cricket, soccer, and rugby because he loves the high intensity of the sport.

"I loved where it was taking me," he said.

Mullan has traveled across Australia and the Pacific for basketball. He played in the 2006 FIBA Basketball Youth competition in New Zealand, where his team lost by 10 points in the championship game against New Zealand. This is his first time to visit the CNMI.

"Adjusting to the heat was tough," he said.

But during the past week, the Aussies have easily conquered the harsh climate as well as other competing teams.

Australia remained undefeated after yesterday afternoon's semifinals game against New Zealand, which had a final score of 78 to 49.

When the *Saipan Tribune* spoke with Mullan after the game, he expressed confidence in Australia's ability to bag the championship.

"We have the team to do it," he said.

The Aussies challenged New Caledonia in the finals last night at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Results of the game were unavailable as of press time.

In the fall, Mullan will attend the University of Pennsylvania where he will play for the Quakers, who dominated Ivy League basketball from 2005 to 2007 but have since given up the trophy to Cornell University.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	28	.611	–
New York	40	32	.556	4
Toronto	40	34	.541	5
Tampa Bay	39	35	.527	6
Baltimore	32	40	.444	12

Central Division

Detroit	41	31	.569	–
Minnesota	37	37	.500	5
Chicago	35	37	.486	6
Kansas City	31	40	.437	9 1/2
Cleveland	30	44	.405	12

West Division

Texas	39	32	.549	–
Los Angeles	38	32	.543	1/2
Seattle	37	35	.514	2 1/2
Oakland	31	40	.437	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	37	33	.529	–
New York	37	34	.521	1/2
Florida	38	36	.514	1
Atlanta	34	38	.472	4
Washington	21	49	.300	16

Central Division

St. Louis	40	34	.541	–
Milwaukee	38	34	.528	1
Cincinnati	35	36	.493	3 1/2
Chicago	34	35	.493	3 1/2
Houston	33	37	.471	5
Pittsburgh	33	39	.458	6

West Division

Los Angeles	47	26	.644	–
San Francisco	39	32	.549	7
Colorado	37	35	.514	9 1/2
San Diego	31	40	.437	15
Arizona	30	43	.411	17

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 6, Chicago Cubs 5
N.Y. Mets 3, St. Louis 2
Houston 5, Kansas City 4
Chicago White Sox 6, L.A. Dodgers 5, 13 innings
Minnesota 6, Milwaukee 4
Seattle 9, San Diego 3
Washington 9, Boston 3
Pittsburgh 3, Cleveland 2
Cincinnati 7, Toronto 5
Tampa Bay 10, Philadelphia 4
Florida 11, Baltimore 3
N.Y. Yankees 11, Atlanta 7
Texas 9, Arizona 8, 12 innings

TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CROMWELL, Connecticut (AP) – Scores Thursday from the Travelers Championship, a $6 million US PGA Tour event at 6,837-yard, par-70 (35-35) TPC River Highlands:

FIRST ROUND

Kenny Perry	29-32–61
Paul Goydos	32-31–63
Charles Warren	32-31–63
Greg Chalmers	34-30–64
Tag Ridings	34-30–64
Spencer Levin	32-32–64
Boo Weekley	34-30–64
Ricky Barnes	33-32–65
David Toms	33-32–65
John Merrick	31-34–65
D.A. Points	33-32–65
Mathew Goggin	32-33–65
Jerry Kelly	34-31–65
Y.E. Yang	31-34–65
Lucas Glover	33-32–65
Aaron Watkins	33-32–65
Robert Garrigus	33-33–66
J.J. Henry	32-34–66
Johnson Wagner	35-31–66
Brian Gay	35-31–66
Anthony Kim	34-32–66
Hunter Mahan	35-31–66
Lee Janzen	33-33–66
Ken Duke	32-34–66
Billy Andrade	33-33–66
Bo Van Pelt	33-33–66
Charlie Wi	33-33–66
Luke List	34-32–66
Nicholas Thompson	33-33–66
Ryan Moore	35-31–66
Chez Reavie	34-32–66
Brian Bateman	31-35–66
D.J. Trahan	33-33–66
Vijay Singh	33-33–66
Bubba Watson	33-33–66
Colt Knost	33-33–66
Kyle Stanley	33-33–66
Peter Lonard	34-33–67
Kevin Na	34-33–67
Bryce Molder	34-33–67
Jesper Parnevik	33-34–67
Patrick Sheehan	32-35–67
Jason Bohn	34-33–67
Sergio Garcia	31-36–67
Brandt Snedeker	34-33–67
Kevin Stadler	36-31–67
Briny Baird	33-34–67
Matt Bettencourt	33-34–67
Bill Lunde	32-35–67
Casey Wittenberg	33-34–67
Tommy Gainey	33-34–67
Jeff Maggert	33-34–67
Tim Herron	33-34–67
Chris Riley	34-33–67
Cliff Kresge	34-33–67
Mark Brooks	35-32–67
Frank Lickliter II	34-33–67
Greg Owen	33-34–67
Joe Ogilvie	33-34–67
Steve Lowery	34-33–67
Scott Verplank	34-33–67
Chad Campbell	33-34–67
Zach Johnson	35-32–67
Joe Durant	34-33–67
Jay Williamson	35-32–67
Webb Simpson	34-33–67
Jarrod Lyle	35-32–67
Aron Price	34-33–67
Dean Wilson	34-34–68
Fredrik Jacobson	35-33–68
Nick O'Hern	34-34–68
Corey Pavin	34-34–68
Jonathan Kaye	34-34–68
Chris DiMarco	34-34–68
Dustin Johnson	32-36–68
Ben Curtis	33-35–68

By The Associated Press

Venus keeps knee status a mystery at Wimbledon

Venus Williams ambled onto sun-splashed Court 1 at Wimbledon on Thursday, a slight hitch in her step and an odd-looking wrap around her left knee. White tape here, brown tape there. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Clippers take Griffin with No. 1 pick

On a day of head-turning trades around the NBA, the Los Angeles Clippers started Thursday night's draft with the obvious choice: Griffin, the only player considered a sure thing in a class full of question marks. **25**

Aussies near crowns in FIBA Oceania

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Australia inched closer to the championship in the men's and women's divisions of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament after advancing to the semifinal round yesterday.

Australia's women's team gained the first title seat following its 68-33 demolition of Guam at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Over at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, New Zealand booked the second finals ticket after thumping New Caledonia, 71-39.

New Zealand and New Caledonia were playing in the gold medal game last night but results of the finals match were unavailable at press time.

Guam took the tournament's bronze medal after edging New Caledonia in overtime, 61-59.

In the men's division finals, it will be Australia vs. New Caledonia.

Australia topped New Zealand, 78-49, at the Ada Gym, while New Caledonia clobbered Guam in the other semis game at the MHS Gym, 78-47. The gold medal game between Aus-

See AUSSIES on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Australia's Kurtis Phillips, left, goes for a layup against New Zealand's Luke Aston during their semis game in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Inter retains President's Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Inter Godfather's shut out Korea-A in the finals, 5-0, to top the 2009 President's Cup-Korean Football Association of Saipan Soccer Tournament last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

CNMI Men's National Team members Joe Miller and Chris Nelson led Saipan Inter's title win, scoring two and one goal, respectively. Chris Guerrero and Masatoshi Otsuka made one goal apiece for Saipan Inter to help the team keep the President's Cup. Inter also won in the 2008 edition of the tournament after beating Onwel in the finals, 1-0.

Last Sunday's victory over Korea-A was a sort of sweet revenge for Saipan Inter, which lost to FC Arirang in the 2009 Han Nam Market Cup, two months ago. Majority of FC Arirang players are now with Korea-A.

Korea B, who are composed of Korean youth players, and Independent FC were the two other teams that competed in this year's President's Cup.

The tournament had a round-robin format in the elimination round with

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members and supporters of Saipan Inter Godfather's pose for a group photo after ruling the 2009 President's Cup-Korean Football Association of Saipan Soccer Tournament last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Sean Mullan: Aussie shooting star

By ANITA B. HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Nineteen-year-old Sean Mullan, one of 10 players on the Australian men's basketball team, helped lead the Aussies to the finals of this week's 2009 FIBA Oceania Tournament on Saipan.

At 6'6", Mullan wears the No. 10 jersey on the team and was the leading scorer in Australia's games against New Caledonia and New Zealand on

See SEAN on Page 27

Fiesta boosts semis bid, MBI survives Shirley's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan strengthened its bid for an automatic semis ticket in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League after downing Pacific Trading, Co., 86-75, last Wednesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan was rained-out.

Fiesta improved to a 6-2 record as it has yet to drop a match in the second round of the two round robin regular season. Fiesta's two remaining games (G4S and MBI) are make-up matches and it need at least to win one of them to finish in the

See FIESTA on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MBI's Marvin Achas, left, beats Jener Pineda in the rebound play during their game in the Shirley's caging last Wednesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.